

**Town of Stow**  
**Stow Historical Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
October 7, 2021

**I. Call to order**

Dot Spaulding called to order the regular meeting of the Stow Historical Commission at 7:35 p.m. on *Thursday, October 7, 2021 on Zoom.*

**II. Roll call**

The following people were present:

Commission Members: Dot Spaulding, Andy Crosby, Barbara Clancy, Stacen Goldman

Absent: none      Guests: none

**III. Approve Minutes**

Stacen Goldman made and Andy Crosby seconded a motion to approve the September minutes as amended. Motion was approved unanimously.

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Stacen Goldman made and Barbara Clancy seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Motion was approved unanimously.

**V. Building Permits**

None received. Dot Spaulding will requests .pdfs from the Building Department and email them.

**VI. Randall Library Future**

Dot Spaulding said that the library director, Tina McAndrew, wants to meet with us about the Warren Room and library renovation, but could not attend our October meeting. Dot will try to set up a future meeting date with Tina and possibly also with the library trustees. Dot felt that we should research the history of the Warren Room before our meeting. She did not raise the Historical Society's concerns about the Warren Room displays with Tina, and agrees with Tina that some of the items in the cases do not relate clearly to Stow's history. The picture rail to rehang paintings in the upstairs rooms hasn't been installed yet.

Commission members agreed that the ownership situation for the artifacts at the library needs clarification. Dot will talk to Liz Moseley at the Historical Society to get a sense of the Society's status, any future plans, and how we can work with them.

**VII. Community Preservation Committee**

Barbara Clancy reported that the last two CPC meetings have focused on the Stow Acres Phase II project, which involves purchasing the North Course, and the upcoming Town Meeting vote on funding. The CPA recreation/open space and unrestricted funds will be used for the purchase. Though there is a housing development planned for part of the North Course, it is by private development, so CPA housing funds will not be used for any part of the purchase.

## VIII. Town Hall Restoration

Dot Spaulding said that she received an email from Andy Crosby about having the Town Hall *Restoration Committee meet with the Historical Commission. Andy reported that the Committee is* working on a public forum to build support for the restoration and would like to work with the Commission and the Historical Society as well. The Committee is looking for a few Stow residents to talk about past use of the Town Hall and what the building means to them, and a few residents who would like to use the building for various events when it is restored. These stories will be recorded for the presentation. The presentation will also present a budget for restoration and images of what the completed work will look like. They hope to hold the forum in December or January. Andy asked that Commission members forward names of people who could be featured in the presentation. Dot said she would ask some people. The Committee is also working with Lew Halprin to find articles and pictures of Town Hall events.

Stacen Goldman recommended the committee work on a fact sheet that described the rehabilitation *work in simpler and more values-focused ways, ie a certain percentage of the budget goes toward* making the building more environmentally sustainable and a certain percentage goes toward making it accessible. Most of the expenditures are for improving existing systems. We liked this idea.

Stacen hasn't reached out to the Social Justice Alliance but thought they would help build support for an accessible building. Arnie Epstein from Sustainable Stow and the new Green Advisory Committee is a former Restoration Committee member and might help with facts about saving money by upgrading the heating and cooling system.

We agreed we could meet with the Town Hall Restoration Committee later in October, possibly at their next meeting on October 21. Andy will ask the Committee.

The earliest the Committee would ask for funding would be May 2022 Town Meeting. Stacen asked whether we could apply for National Register status if funding is not approved to help protect the building in case it is sold. We agreed that this is worth looking into.

## IX. West School

Barbara Clancy reported no new information from Structures North. Dot Spaulding said it would be *good to get into the building before winter to get any documentation we need for Massachusetts* Historical Commission's support of a National Registry application.

## X. Old/New business

Dot Spaulding was approached by a realtor about whether there were any town restrictions on what *could be done with homes on the town's historic inventory by new owners. Dot said that there were* none. It may be that some guidelines for renovating historic housing could come out of regulations or guidelines developed for the Gleasondale Historic District. The inquiry wasn't about a specific house, just a general question. The Gleasondale Historic District organizers do not want to be too restrictive, Dot noted.

Dot reported that she is working on the new cemetery maps. She would like to buy the older version of Corel Draw used to make the maps since having that software would make it easier to update maps

using both the Cemetery department's deed numbers and newer plot numbers linked to historical information for the public. Dot's research for Linda Hathaway has both the old and new numbers in a spreadsheet. She would like to see the maps finished and on display.

#### **XI. Correspondence**

Dot received a letter the day of the meeting from the Massachusetts Historical Commission about grant applications for 2022. *Grants can be used for historic district commissions or study committees.* It's possible that the Gleasondale committee could apply. It could also be used for National Register applications. The grant is a 50% matching grant. The deadline for applying is November 15, 2021, however. Dot will read the letter over and see whether there are projects we could apply for.

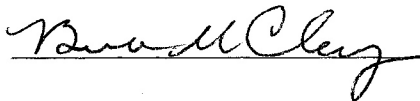
#### **Next meeting:**

Thursday, November 4 on Zoom at 7:30 p.m

#### **Adjournment:**

Stacen Goldman made and Andy Crosby seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion approved unanimously. *Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.*

Minutes submitted by: Barbara Clancy



Minutes Approved on: November 4, 2021