

Town of Stow
Stow Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2021

I. Call to order

Dot Spaulding called to order the regular meeting of the Stow Historical Commission at 7:32 p.m. on Thursday, December 2, 2021 on Zoom.

II. Roll call

The following people were present:

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

Absent: none Guests: none

III. Approve Minutes

Stacen Goldman made and Dot Spaulding seconded a motion to approve the November minutes as amended. Motion was approved by Stacen, Dot, and Barbara Clancy with Andy Crosby abstaining.

IV. Treasurer's Report

No changes to report from last month's totals.

V. Building Permits

None received.

VI. Randall Library Future

Dot Spaulding has heard from Randall Library director Tina McAndrew. Tina would be happy to discuss display of historical items at the library and the library redesign plans, possibly at our next meeting on January 6, 2022.

VII. Community Preservation Committee

Barbara Clancy reported that the Community Preservation Committee has received one application for CPA funds from the Stow Municipal Affordable Housing Trust for funding for an affordable housing development on Red Acre Road. At the last CPC meeting the committee was also asked to reapprove funds appropriated several years ago for Plantation II senior affordable housing, which they have done.

CPC will also be receiving an application from the Randall Library building committee to fund a portion of the library redesign project under historical preservation. CPC will be asking for information on how the proposed work will qualify as historic preservation and whether any of the new work will undo previously funded historic restoration work on the library's second floor.

VIII. Town Hall Restoration

Andy Crosby said that he forwarded the Town Hall Restoration Committee's application for CPA to Historical Commission members. It has also been submitted to the Community Preservation

Committee. The request is for \$4.8 million, with the hope that the project will also receive some funding from other sources.

Barbara Clancy noted that there is still concern among CPC members that the Town Hall project is too expensive, and that there will probably be questions from CPC members exploring project cost-cutting. Andy thought that the Restoration Committee would be able to justify costs. Barbara also noted that CPC had looked into bonding as a way to fund the Town Hall project and wanted to know if bonding would be a part of the Town Hall proposal. Andy said that it likely would. He said some outside money for this project could also be available, though the chances of getting grants are much higher for projects that already are funded. Barbara also said that the CPC would be interested in whether the Town Hall Restoration Committee had talked with the library about meeting space and whether a large restoration project at the library would mean a need for more public space at the Town Hall. Andy thought the Restoration Committee could prove that the Town Hall would be well-used based on the its uniqueness, increased accessibility, and as a child friendly space.

Dot Spaulding asked about whether the project includes fire suppression. Andy said no, because of cost, and also because it was not required by the fire chief. The fire alarm system will be upgraded but no sprinklers will be installed.

The Town Hall Restoration Committee is planning a public forum some time in January. Jonathan Daisy from Stow TV will be interviewing community members about their memories of events and uses of the Town Hall.

IX. West School

Dot Spaulding said that Marilyn Zavorski emailed the Commission asking if the leaves could be swept from the West School path and the outside of the building spruced up with a wreath or greenery. Dot noted that as part of the cleanup, photos and measurements could be taken for the National Register application. Dot said she obtained rough outside dimensions of the school from the assessors office. At least one member of the family that lived in the West School while it was a residence is alive, and he could be asked to share any memories of growing up there.

Barbara circulated the contract from Structures North for the inspection. Funds up to \$3800 were already requested and approved by CPC. Andy Crosby made a motion to approve the contract, and to authorize Barbara to sign it and submit to CPC for future payment. Barbara seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

Dot said she believed that getting an inspection done should not affect the West School's national register application. Stacen agreed.

X. New Members

New members are still needed.

XI. Old and New Business

Dot Spaulding heard from the Planning Board that there is a cost involved in creating a Gleasondale Historic District. Dot will ask the Planning Board for more details.

The Gleasondale district group is planning a forum on the proposed district and will go to spring Town Meeting for approval for the district and district guidelines. The guidelines won't be restrictive, and will

focus on preserving the overall look of the mill village buildings. Guidelines for Grafton and other mill villages are being used as models. The Historical Commission will have to approve their guideline and their request. They are working on the guidelines and may have a draft by January. Some of the district borders have moved to incorporate a farm and some homes that are on the historic inventory.

Dot and Liz Moseley have been talking about doing some programming but want to hear from more *Historical Society members*. Dot also suggested to Liz that the *Historical Commission* take over research on historic buildings. Dot would like to start a filing system to organize photographs and other material.

Dot is also working on getting information on Stow Acres, and on getting a computer in the Town Building for the Historical Commission. Stacen Goldman and Dot will make arrangements to meet at the Town Building so Stacen can see the files and the town vault. Dot hoped that in January 2022 Commission members can help with indexing material in the vault. Andy Crosby suggested digitizing material so it can be accessed online. Stacen said that there might be grant support for this.

XII. Correspondence

None received.

Next meeting:

Thursday, January 6 on Zoom at 7:30 p.m

Adjournment:

Andy Crosby made and Stacen Goldman seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Barbara Clancy



Minutes Approved on: 1-6-2022