

**Town of Stow**  
**Stow Historical Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
February 3, 2022

**I. Call to order**

Dot Spaulding called to order the regular meeting of the Stow Historical Commission at 7:36 p.m. on Thursday, February 3, 2022 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**

Andy Crosby made and Dot Spaulding seconded a motion to approve the January minutes as written. Motion was approved unanimously.

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

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

**V. Building Permits**

None received. Dot Spaulding said she would check with the Building Department to see if monthly building permit reports were still available. Barbara Clancy asked if we could receive demolition permits or notices. Dot thought they could be provided via email.

**VI. Randall Library Future**

We have no new information on the Randall Library project. We are concerned that while the Library building committee has applied for Community Preservation Act funds under historic preservation they have not yet brought the project to the Commission. Barbara Clancy will check with Vin Antil, the Community Preservation Committee chair, to see if our approval is required, similarly to our approval of the Town Hall restoration project. Dot noted it would be good to see what kind of restoration they have in mind, and how much of the previous project will be redone.

**VII. Community Preservation Committee**

Barbara Clancy reported that the next two CPC meetings will be a discussion and vote on all submitted applications. *The Committee didn't realize that they were the entity responsible for applying for bonding on a project, though for the Town Hall they looked at some bond financing scenarios last year, and will have other numbers provided by the Town Hall Restoration Committee this year.* Because bonding out of CPC funds has never been done in Stow, CPC is being very cautious. Andy Crosby said that Cortni Frecha is working on a financing spreadsheet for the next CPC meeting for a 25 year bond at

2%, with bond payments coming out of the historical or unrestricted buckets, and about 1/3 of the incoming CPC funds. There should be money available for other historical projects over that bond span.

### **VIII. Town Hall Restoration**

Dot Spaulding asked Andy Crosby whether a public forum had been scheduled. Andy said that the *Town Hall Restoration Committee is very focused on their application to CPC. If that application is approved a public forum will be held. If not, a forum could build additional support to continue the project.* Andy said that the restoration design is almost wrapped up and should be ready for Town Meeting.

### **IX. Town Hall Historic Displays**

Andy Crosby has had some email exchanges with Marilyn Zavorski about Town Hall restoration and asked her to reconsider having Historical Society displays in the Town Hall. There should be enough room for both the Historical Society and Historical Commission to display artifacts. For instance, the former Cemetery Commission office, and basement conference room area, could be used for displays.

He hoped that the Commission would be willing to support the Historical Society having displays in the Town Hall. *Based on conversations with Marilyn, the Historical Society would be maintaining the displays.* He moved that the Commission to support the Stow Historical Society's request for an area to display historical items in the Town Hall. Stacen Goldman seconded the motion.

In discussion, Stacen noted that a Town Hall display area helped address the problem of possibly losing display areas in the library. Moving items from one town-owned building to another seems appropriate. Dot noted that the weight cabinet could be displayed and is a town-owned item. Barbara Clancy was concerned about how display cases and lighting would be paid for, but supported the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **X. West School**

Barbara Clancy said that Greg Nowak, from Structures North, inspected the school for about four hours, *including the exterior, interior, and attic. He took a lot of pictures, which he will let us use for the school's National Historic Register application.* His initial impression was that the building was in decent shape. There was some rot in the attic and movement of the roof, which can also be seen on the roofline, but it did not look like movement had happened recently.

He had a concern about bowing on the street-side of the building and thought that we might want to dig a trench alongside that wall to see if there were problems with the foundation on that side.

The doorways are wide enough to be ADA compliant. Since it is a small building and used infrequently he did not feel that the building would need to be brought up to code in the same way as the Town Hall, and that accessibility could possibly be improved with a temporary ramp just put up for events.

He is going to write a report but told us it would take at least a few months. Structures North still has a *lot of projects in the construction phase which take priority. He felt a ballpark figure on repointing masonry and repairs would be \$200,000 to \$300,000.*

Stacen Goldman asked if the state of the building could work against us in a National Register application. Since the building seems to be in decent shape, we thought not. We are also not proposing any major renovations to the building. She also said that the accessibility of the building seems to be a landscape issue. Andy Crosby noted that it's possible that the walkway and ramp will have to be addressed depending on the overall cost of repairs and that the West School would have to ask for variances, similar to the Town Hall.

Dot is going to organize photos of the school, and thinks she may need more interior views and dimensions of the exterior for Mass Historical Commission.

#### **XI. New Members**

New members are still needed.

#### **XII. Old and New Business**

Dot Spaulding sent out the Historical Commission town report, but Barbara Clancy had accidentally sent the report for the previous year. She sent the 2021 report during the meeting for it to be approved by email. The report should mention the Gleasondale historical district and Town Hall.

Dot said she is digitizing a handwritten history of Gleasondale written by Emily Gleason Perkins which goes back to the 1700s. She is doing this for the Gleasondale group but will also share it with the Historical Commission files. She is interested in doing more research on the houses in the historic inventory as well, and on Mapledale Golf Course.

#### **XIII. Correspondence**

None received.

#### **Next meeting:**

Thursday, March 3 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 8:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Barbara Clancy



Minutes Approved on: March 3, 2022