

Town of Stow
Stow Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2022

I. Call to order

Dot Spaulding called to order the regular meeting of the Stow Historical Commission at 7:34 p.m. on Thursday, March 3, 2022 on Zoom.

II. Roll call

The following people were present:

Commission Members: Dot Spaulding, Barbara Clancy, Andy Crosby

Absent: Stacen Goldman Guests: none

III. Approve Minutes

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

IV. Treasurer's Report

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

V. Building Permits

Dot Spaulding has paper copies of the building permit lists for months July through December. She is *going to ask the Building Department to send the information as a .pdf so it can be shared electronically*. She will also ask for copies of demolition permits so we can document any historic homes before they are torn down. A house on Barton Road, which was given an inventory number in the Heritage Way study, was recently torn down, for instance. Dot will write a formal letter if a verbal request doesn't get results.

VI. Randall Library Future

Barbara Clancy checked with Vin Antil, chair of Community Preservation Committee, about whether the Randall Library building committee needed formal approval from the Historical Commission as part of their application for CPC funds. Vin said they did not. The CPC voted to approve the Library's application for funding. Historical Commission members still want to meet with the Randall Library building committee to discuss the project, to make a recommendation at Town Meeting. We are concerned about how the CPC-funded project to restore the second-floor original entrance will impact work that has already been done on the room. The picture rail and returning pictures to the second floor remains incomplete. We are also interested in the viability of using the old entrance when the new one is closer to the parking lot and existing handicapped parking, though at one CPC meeting, Tina McAndrew said that the library might restore the handicapped parking spot on Crescent Street. Dot will invite them for the commission's April 7 meeting.

VII. Community Preservation Committee

The Community Preservation Committee approved the applications for the library and for an affordable housing project on Red Acre Road. Barbara Clancy abstained from the library vote because the Historical Commission still had unanswered questions about the project and hadn't made a formal decision on approving it. The Town Hall Restoration Committee application was not approved, despite CPC members showing more support on a straw poll taken during one of their discussion sessions.

VIII. Town Hall Restoration

Andy Crosby reported that the Town Hall Restoration Committee is assessing next steps following the Community Preservation Committee's decision against their application for CPA funding. The THRC will look for guidance from the Selectboard, and are considering going back to CPC for supplemental funds to keep Don Mills working on the project to attend forums and build community support. They also want to see how they might be able to fundraise, or possibly bring in members with fundraising experience and non-profit experience. They also need to increase membership to include an at large member and a representative from CPC. Unless the Select Board disbands THRC, they will work on a CPA fund application for next year. The building itself is stable and is being used for public events.

The National Registry application is on hold because there's no final, firm decision on whether a restoration project will go forward.

IX. West School

Barbara Clancy checked in with Greg Nowak about the report, which is being written. Dot Spaulding needs to get some outside measurements but hasn't been able to because of snow. Because the building is town-owned, the Assessors don't have a plot plan for it.

X. New Members

New members are still needed.

XI. Old and New Business

The Historical Commission town report has been submitted.

Dot Spaulding received an application through the Planning Board from Nan's. Nan's wants to install picnic tables and a "juice caboose"—a converted horse trailer--outside, and improve storage. The hearing on the application is March 8. Dot will return the application with a note from the Commission that we prefer anything visible in the road to be in character with the historic main structure.

Dot also noted that our designated space in the Town Building basement is still full of stored items.

Barbara Clancy noted that 206 Barton Road is due to be demolished, though the application for the new house has yet to be approved. We hope to take pictures of the house before it is torn down.

Correspondence

None received.

Next meeting:

Thursday, April 7 on Zoom at 7:30 p.m

Adjournment:

Andy Crosby made and Barbara Clancy seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion approved unanimously.
Meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Barbara Clancy Barbara Clancy

Minutes Approved on: April 7, 2022