

**Town of Stow
Stow Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes**

April 7, 2022

I. Call to order

Dot Spaulding called to order the regular meeting of the Stow Historical Commission at 7:39 p.m. on Thursday, April 7, 2022 on Zoom.

II. Roll call

The following people were present:

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

Absent: none Guests: Marcy Eckel, Maura Sieller, Library Trustees; Tina McAndrew, Director, Randall Library

III. Approve Minutes

Andy Crosby made and Dot Spaulding seconded a motion to approve the March minutes as written. Motion was approved with Andy, Dot, and Barbara Clancy voting yes, and Stacen Goldman abstaining.

IV. Treasurer's Report

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

V. Randall Library Future

Tina McAndrew shared a powerpoint presentation outlining the history of the proposed library renovation/expansion and concept renderings of the library exterior. She emphasized how the project was shaped by community input and feedback. The current plan preserves the original, historic library building with a new addition replacing the 1975-76 addition, which is in poor shape and not up to code. The current space in the library isn't utilized to its full potential, and the renovation will address this.

Tina noted that Community Preservation funds were instrumental in the previous restoration of the upstairs meeting/study space and Whitney Room. While the proposed restoration would mean some work potentially done in that area, those rooms would be restored to their present condition.

The estimated cost is \$8.8m, \$4.1m of which is to get the building up to code. Project costs include heating and ventilation systems, installing an elevator, and soft costs for moving, storage, and possible rental of another space while construction takes place. They already have commitments from library trusts for \$900,000 and applied for \$1m in CPA funds over three years.

Andy Crosby agreed that the proposed project would make the library more useable. He asked for more detail about work to be done in the historical area. Tina said that the goal is to preserve previous work. They don't plan on changing any of the work except for reopening the original entrance. She also noted that the 1975-76 addition covers up some of the façade of the original library, and the proposed new addition leaves more of the original building visible.

Andy asked how much additional square footage the new addition would add. Marcy Eckel said that the additional square footage was modest but that the goal was to create more useable and flexible space.

Barbara Clancy asked about current and potential display space for historical items, given that the previous renovation retained display space in the Whitney Room. Would the room stay the same? What could be done in the library to provide space for either artifacts or reference materials? Marcy said that questions about the artifacts should be directed to Denise Dembkoski. The building will retain its historical look. She suggested documenting the renovation and previous renovations for a historical display. Tina said her vision included space for historical reference but said that in her opinion most of the items on display currently don't relate directly to Stow. She said that there would still be a Hale room to house reference documents.

The commission members agreed that it was very important to have research resources available. Stacen Goldman asked about what kind of materials are available currently, and Tina said that there was printed material as well as microfiche, but no documents that require special environmental storage.

Dot Spaulding asked whether there was any consideration given to using brick for the addition to make it look more like the original building. Tina said the thinking among designers was not to try to match the style or material because it wouldn't look authentic.

In discussion at the end of the meeting, Commission members considered talking to Denise Dembkoski about the ownership and future of the items on display, and re-hanging pictures currently in storage. Stacen shared a picture of a reconfiguration of the reading room at the Framingham History Center which enabled display of many historical items along a wall. She noted that there could be room for similar display areas and artwork in Stow town buildings. Andy suggested inviting Denise to one of our meetings after Town Meeting but in advance of the Town Hall joint board meeting.

Stacen moved that the Commission support the use of \$1m in CPC funding for the library project. Andy seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

VI. Building Permits

Dot Spaulding talked to the building department about setting up a system for us to review building permits, and to get notice when demolition permits are issued. One house on Barton Road with a Mass Historical Commission number was recently torn down, and another is going to be demolished later this year. Dot has taken pictures from the waterfront of lake homes but street view pictures need to be taken.

VII. Community Preservation Committee

Barbara Clancy reported that the Community Preservation Committee deferred voting to approve an application by the Town Hall Restoration Committee for \$50,000 to keep Mills Whittaker on retainer. The committee will wait to vote until after a special joint board meeting, which will be held sometime over the summer and which will discuss the Town Hall project. The application can then go on a fall special Town Meeting warrant. There are two articles for CPC funding on the May warrant, Red Acre Road housing and the library project.

VIII. Town Hall Restoration

Andy Crosby said that the committee is also waiting for the proposed joint board meeting but is not clear on whether they will be allowed to give any input. His best guess is that the committee will be disbanded or a new committee will be set up. If a new committee is set up their focus might be on

community development and fundraising. Andy said that this phase requires a new skill set and fresh outlook. Stacen Goldman said she would be interested, depending on the meeting schedule and time commitment. She felt that we should quickly move to get the Town Hall on the National Register to help with grant funding and to protect the building in case the town decides to sell or lease it.

Andy questioned whether we could start the application when the Massachusetts Historical Commission said that they wouldn't consider it until the restoration project was complete. He thought we would need the town to firmly state that no restoration would be done.

Maintenance on the building should be done but it's also possible that the cost of maintenance projects could be high enough to trigger more renovations for compliance and code. Barbara Clancy noted that Marilyn Zavorski sent an email about certain items in the basement that should be moved to protect them from damage. Ownership of items and lack of storage space are problems.

IX. West School

Dot Spaulding is working on getting a plot plan for West School. Barbara Clancy has the pictures that Greg Nowak took and will share them with Dot. She also emailed Greg Nowak about the West School report. He wrote he hoped to have it done by the end of April.

X. New Members

New members are still needed.

XI. Old and New Business

Dot Spaulding is working on procedures for accepting and cataloguing donations on behalf of the town. She has a notebook with sample forms and procedures for the commission secretary. Andy Crosby said that he has a similar notebook for the treasurer and he will get it to Dot.

Dot asked for a straw poll on support for the Gleasondale Historical District. The group working on the district is going to have a forum on April 20, and Dot wanted to be able to speak on the Commission's support for the district at the forum. They do not want to be restrictive but they don't have written regulations yet. Commission members were supportive of the concept but wanted to see details. Dot will say so at the forum.

Correspondence

None received.

XII. Adjournment

Barbara Clancy moved to adjourn the meeting. Stacen Goldman seconded. Motion approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

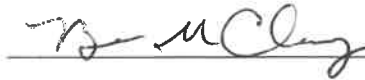
Next meeting:

Thursday, May 5, on Zoom at 7:30 p.m

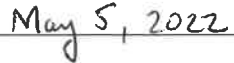
Adjournment:

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Barbara Clancy', is written over a horizontal line.

Minutes Approved on:

A handwritten date 'May 5, 2022' is written over a horizontal line.