

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

July 7, 2022

**I. Call to order**

The regular meeting of the Stow Historical Commission was called to order at 7:33 p.m. on Thursday, July 7, 2022 on Zoom.

**II. Roll call**

*The following people were present:*

Commission Members: Dot Spaulding (joined at 7:38), Barbara Clancy, Andy Crosby, Stacen Goldman

Absent: none

Guests: Someone asked to join the meeting at around 8:05 p.m. but couldn't connect.

**III. Approve Minutes**

Stacen Goldman made and Andy Crosby seconded a motion to approve the May minutes as amended. Motion was approved by Barbara Clancy, Andy Crosby, and Stacen Goldman.

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Barbara Clancy made and Stacen Goldman seconded a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion was approved by Barbara Clancy, Andy Crosby, and Stacen Goldman.

**V. Building Permits**

Dot Spaulding will distribute a link to the building permits online. Permits also include electrical and plumbing permits.

**VI. Community Preservation Committee**

Barbara Clancy said that the Community Preservation Committee is working on the annual revision of the *Stow Community Preservation Plan*. The committee wants to incorporate more community input on what projects CPC should focus on. They are asking that committees pick major priorities for open space, historical preservation, recreation and housing. The historical commission should review what we submitted for the December 2020 revision and pare down that list of projects to a few top priorities.

Barbara said she would also check to see if funds to pay for the West School report were encumbered for this fiscal year.

Dot Spaulding noted that \$100 appropriated in the last fiscal year to pay for locks for the filing cabinets in the Historical Commission's office in the Town Building wasn't spent, so the money should be appropriated for this fiscal year. Andy Crosby made the motion and Stacen Goldman seconded. It was approved unanimously.

## **VII. Gleasondale Historic District**

Dot Spaulding reported that the Gleasondale Local Historic District Study Committee will hopefully meet in the fall. They need to hold a forum to get residents interested and informed. They are looking at forming a district through the National Register of Historic Places. Dot wants to read up on this. Stacen Goldman said that the national register historic districts don't necessarily have restrictions on what residents can do to their property, it just legitimizes the historic status of the area. However she wasn't aware of any National Register district that wasn't also a local district. Dot said that residents continue to be concerned about how a local district might restrict their ability to modify property.

## **VIII. Stow's Historic Artifacts**

Dot Spaulding talked to Denise Dembkoski about the artifacts on display at the Randall Library. It sounds like the library wants to move everything out. No one is certain about what items belong to the Town of Stow, versus the Historical Society or other entities. Dot will help document anything that belongs to the town. The Historical Society inventoried items on display when the items were stored during the last renovation project. Dot will look for that list, otherwise there are no good records of who owns what. Stacen said that anything left at the library might be considered abandoned property unless the Historical Society can document that they own it. If an item has been loaned to the town it has to be returned to whoever made the loan or their descendants.

The commission agreed to try to meet with the Historical Society and keep in communication with the town administrator. Stacen thought in the ideal situation, the Historical Society would maintain the collection if they have the capacity and the town would turn over artifacts to the Society. Print materials that are of historic significance should stay in the library. There is no known deadline to move items out of the library.

## **IX. West School**

Barbara Clancy talked to Greg Nowak, who hoped to have the report done by the end of July. Dot is working on a plot plan.

## **X. New Members**

New members are still needed. Associates interested in specific projects would be helpful.

## **XI. Old and New Business**

Dot is sworn in for her next term but is concerned about whether we will continue to be able to meet on Zoom, since getting to the Town Building in winter might be difficult. Commission members are willing to stay in their present jobs.

Dot Spaulding attended the Minuteman Airfield open house, which focused on expansion plans.

There is a planning board hearing on August 2 on a proposed development off Athens Lane of 141 55+ restricted units. It's not a historic property but we were given a planning packet.

Dot Spaulding received a request for a plaque for a historic house. The plaque maker has turned his business over to someone in New Jersey, so she will be contacting the new manufacturer.

**Correspondence**

None received.

**XII. Adjournment**

Stacen Goldman moved to adjourn the meeting. Dot Spaulding seconded. Motion approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

**Next meeting:**

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

Dot Spaulding will ask about making Andy Crosby the meeting host.

Minutes submitted by: Barbara Clancy

Barbara Clancy

Minutes Approved on:

8/4/2022