

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

September 8, 2022

I. Call to order

The regular meeting of the Stow Historical Commission was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 8, 2022 on Zoom.

II. Roll call

The following people were present:

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

Absent: none

Guests: Bob Norton

III. Approve Minutes

Stacen Goldman made and Andy Crosby seconded a motion to approve the August minutes as amended. Motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Treasurer's Report

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

V. Building Permits

Andy Crosby and Stacen Goldman asked about the demolition of a house on Pine Point Road and whether it was historically significant. Dot Spaulding said that most of the houses on the lake and some others in the lake area had Mass Historical Commission numbers. The cataloguing was done by Freedom's Way, and while they have numbers they don't have data sheets. Dot has some pictures of the house before it was torn down. For other homes she has photos from the lakeside but not the street side.

VI. Community Preservation Committee

The Commission reviewed their section of the CPC's Community Preservation Plan. Last year's plan prioritized West School, an archeological survey of pre-colonial sites, and the Taylor Bridge on Box Mill Road, and noted as ongoing projects the inventory of historical buildings and sites, the cemetery mapping project, the Whitney room at the Randall Library, the Town Hall, and the Gleasondale Historical District. West School is still a priority. CPC funding would be requested for design and for preservation/restoration work. We are still interested in getting the building on the National Register, which could help with fundraising. Commission members are interested in the pre-historic site survey as well. The Commission would also like to work with the Conservation Commission on possibly

adding historical content to trails on the former Stow Acres golf course, highlighting Mapledale as a Black-owned golf course in the 1920s and site of national competitions for Black players. Mapping the cemeteries is an ongoing project and the Commission agreed that it would be good to publish the maps this year, ideally both at the cemeteries and on the Historical Commission website. We may have to cross-reference our grave numbers with the Cemetery Commission's numbers.

Barbara Clancy raised the issue of whether the Town Hall should be on the priority list. Andy Crosby said he would share material from two recent presentations to the Town Hall Restoration Committee. One is on fundraising, which would have to be done by some entity other than the Town Hall Restoration Committee. The second is a list of five alternatives running from building maintenance to full restoration. October is the earliest date for an all-boards meeting which will decide whether the restoration committee should continue to operate. Stacen asked about non-profit leasing, with the non-profit doing fundraising to improve the space. This is an option that hasn't yet be considered.

The commission supported the West School, Mapledale, and the pre-colonial architectural survey. Barbara asked about a fourth category of wrapping up loose ends, and asked whether the Gleasondale Historic District should come off the list since there is an independent group working on it. Commission members agreed that the Whitney Room project has been absorbed by the wider library restoration project. Commission members agreed there should be a Historical Commission member on the library design committee. Andy moved that we formally ask the Town Administrator to make the appointment. Stacen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

If CPC asks for public input for our part of the report, the easiest way is to have a public meeting with advance notice.

VII. Stow Acres

Dot Spaulding reported that the Conservation Commission wants to make a trail around the south course. They are also looking for historical documentation related to the golf course, especially as relates to Mapledale. They would also like to put a plaque. We were interested in learning more about the trail project and whether there would be historical wayfinding markers incorporated. Dot said she would try to get information. Stacen Goldman has worked on historical trails and said she would be happy to talk to the Historical Commission. Parts of Stow Acres were once a dairy farm, and Bob Norton has video of farmers putting corn into a silo back in the early sixties and other video clips of the farm. The trail could also incorporate Indigenous history and use, and the Randall family.

VIII. West School

Dot Spaulding and Andy Crosby will work on doing a floor plan sketch, and Dot will take a few more pictures of the school. Barbara Clancy reported that Greg Nowak has not added a sentence about the general condition of the building yet. He does not want to add a rough estimate for restoration work to the report. We discussed applying for design funds this year, and whether restoration and making the building more accessible would impede a National Register application. We would need design funds before we can fundraise. We also agreed to keep the Historical Society informed about the project, since their support would be important.

IX. New Members

Bob Norton will be sworn in by the next meeting. Another potential new member is interested as well.

X. Old and New Business

Stacen Goldman is now officially sworn in.

Bob Norton is on the Hale High School reunion committee and has been working on a design for a granite marker to be put on the site of the school, on the grass strip by the old Fire Station. The Commission will look at the drawing and vote to support it.

Correspondence

None received.

XI. Adjournment

Barbara Clancy made and Stacen Goldman seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Next meeting:

Thursday, October 13 on Zoom at 7:30 p.m

Minutes submitted by: Barbara Clancy

Barbara Clancy

Minutes Approved as submitted: October 20, 2022