

**Town of Stow**  
**Stow Historical Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
October 20, 2022

**I. Call to order**

The regular meeting of the Stow Historical Commission was called to order at 7:31 p.m. on Thursday, October 20, 2022 on Zoom.

**II. Roll call**

The following people were present:

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

Absent: Bob Norton

Guests: Kelly Lawlor, Nashoba Area Social Justice Alliance; Marilyn Zavorski and Liz Moseley, Stow Historical Society

**III. Approve Minutes**

Andy Crosby made and Stacen Goldman seconded a motion to approve the September minutes as submitted. 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**

No comments.

**VI. Community Preservation Committee**

Barbara Clancy reported that the CPC held its public forum on the basics of CPA and local funding, with information on how to apply for projects. Three members of the public attended and had some questions about possible housing and historical projects. CPC wasn't sure if the historical project could be funded since it is an event and temporary structure. The project plan summary we completed will be part of the upcoming 2023 Community Preservation Plan.

**VII. Stow Acres**

Kelly Lawler, from the Nashoba Area Social Justice Alliance, said she has been working with the Historical Society and wants to get the community involved in ways to commemorate Mapledale

Country Club and Black history in the area. She is organizing a meeting on November 17 at the Randall Library, from 6 to 8 pm, and will share research there. Kelley is hoping to have an event in 2026 for Mapledale's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Kelly welcomes help with research. She has reached out to the Conservation Commission, which will not start planning trails at Stow Acres until 2023. Con Com is envisioning a marker and a Mapledale Trail on the conservation land. Stacen Goldman asked who would be on the planning committee. Kelly said Kathy Sferra encouraged her to organize community involvement. The Conservation Commission and Conservation Trust will make final decisions but she is hoping to organize community members to make recommendations. The commission was supportive of this.

Kelly said that Marilyn Zavorski would be giving a talk on Mapledale at the Stow Conservation Trust meeting, which will be taped by Stow TV. Dot Spaulding said she would research burials on the golf course.

### **VIII. Historical Society**

Marilyn Zavorski and Liz Moseley joined us to discuss the artifacts on display at the Randall Library Whitney Room.

Stacen Goldman asked about ownership of the items on display. Marilyn said that some are owned by the town and others by the Historical Society. Some were given to the Randall Library because the library owned the display area, but these items should be considered as owned by the town. Historical Society minutes and town reports also contain some ownership information. Roughly 40% of the items on display belong to the Historical Society, and the rest belong to the town, according to Liz Moseley. items in the cases were catalogued when they were stored professionally for the last renovation project.

The Historical Society cannot store or display the items because it has no display space and limited storage. Items are currently stored in the vault, Pompositticut storage area, and members' homes.

According to Marilyn, Denise Demkowski is following recommendations made by the previous library director and the current library director is deferring questions on the items to Denise.

Stacen thought that the town-owned items could be stored by the town, and asked if Liz and Marilyn were worried about any items being disposed of by the library. Liz said she was concerned about getting items ready for the project. They know packing the items is a big job. Dot Spaulding pointed out that we would need to determine who is responsible for packing and storing items given the two owners. Dot will also check whether a new library building committee has been appointed.

Andy asked about moving cases and items to the Town Hall. The Commission office is full but the Scout office might be available. Marilyn noted the cases are old and not ideal for display. New display cases would be preferred. Liz said she had talked with a library trustee about different kinds of display cases, which would combine storage and display and could be placed in different parts of the library. The library would have to commit to providing a secure space. Commission members suggested displaying items in town buildings, and maybe local businesses. The Historical Society could request Community Preservation Act funds for display cases. The Historical Society's storage space at Pompositticut is not very large and there are already 10-12 boxes of books from the library stored there. Barbara Clancy noted that the current library director might be open to taking those books back.

Andy Crosby suggested talking with Denise about storage space. Dot said she would report back from this meeting to Denise, with Liz joining her. Liz will send the Commission a spreadsheet of items on display at the library.

#### **IX. West School**

Dot Spaulding said that she and Bob Norton plan on going to West School to get measurements and pictures. After that, the school can be winterized.

Marilyn Zavorski noted that both teachers and parents have missed the annual 3<sup>rd</sup> grade field trip. It might be possible to schedule the field trips for the spring. An open house would also be a possibility. The Historical Society has been keeping the garden trimmed and changing the wreathes on the door.

#### **X. New Members**

Dot Spaulding will ask Bob Norton if he has been sworn in.

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

##### **Correspondence**

The Planning Board sent a notice about a hearing scheduled for Tuesday, November 15 at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom to discuss a special permit for a 2-story retail and office building at 108 and 118 Great Road.

#### **XII. Adjournment**

Barbara Clancy made and Stacen Goldman seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

##### **Next meeting:**

Thursday, November 10 on Zoom at 7:30 p.m

Minutes submitted by: Barbara Clancy

Barbara Clancy

Minutes Approved as submitted:

11/10/22