

Town of Stow
Stow Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2023

I. Call to order

The regular meeting of the Stow Historical Commission was called to order at 7:36 p.m. on Thursday, December 6, 2023 on Zoom. The meeting was recorded.

II. Roll call

The following people were present:

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

Absent: none Guests: none

III. Meeting Minutes

Stacen Goldman made and Bob Norton seconded a motion to approve the November minutes as submitted. Ayes: Dot Spaulding, Barbara Clancy, Stacen Goldman, Bob Norton. Abstain: Andy Crosby

IV. Treasurer's Reports

There were no changes to the Treasurer's report from last month. Stacen Goldman made and Bob Norton seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Building Permits

Andy Crosby reviewed them and reported there was nothing that the Commission needed to discuss.

VI. Community Preservation Committee

Barbara Clancy reported that the CPC had its public hearing on their annual plan on November 20. No members of the public attended. So far the only application received for CPA funds is the Library Trustee's request for funds to restore the portrait of John Randall. Administrative funds for the West School roof restoration estimate are still available.

VII. Stow Artifacts

Commission members thanked Stacen Goldman for her work sorting and marking individual items on the historic item inventory spreadsheet. Dot Spaulding said she had shown the spreadsheet to Denise Dembkoski, who was impressed with the information and the valuations for some of the items.

Stacen said certain items may, after research, turn out to have more connection to Stow history than the labels in the library cases indicated, but based on what we know now several items could be offered to other towns, to the Historical Society, or sold. If we sort through the items we can better determine how many archival boxes and how much packing material we would need for longer-term storage, and know how much space is required for the boxes.

Dot Spaulding noted that we also have to check on the items in the Town Building attic and in the town vault. Monday is the best day for this because of Linda Hathaway's availability to open the vault. Bill

Byron is also doing an inventory of items in the vault. Stacen is willing to help with inventory after February. Barbara Clancy and Dot are available to check for items in the Town Building attic. Some of the artifacts are mentioned as being donated in town reports. Dot is interested in researching these reports for more information on individual artifacts.

Dot also said we are charged with responsibility for the town musket, which is currently stored in its locked case at the Stow Police Department. Dot is looking for the key, and Bob Norton said he will look at the Building Department. If the musket can be removed it can be stored in the police firearms vault. Stacen noted that it is important that the musket be checked for black powder and handled by people with proper safety training. The musket was carried on April 19, 1775 at Lexington Green and belonged to someone from Stow. Dot is looking for a copy of a written report on it. The musket is not going back on display at the library because there will not be space for it.

Stacen suggested that our next steps should be to hunt down items that are listed but without a location, and then go through and sort the packed items. We can then determine how much space we need to store the items we want to keep and how much it will cost to properly pack items for long-term storage, depending on what the town wants to keep. We will have to work with the town to see where and how to best display items but we could have a good century-by-century display of artifacts. The Town Building is a good short-term location for display because of the foot traffic, since the Town Hall isn't heavily used right now. Pompositticut is another option.

VIII. West School

Barbara Clancy will check to see if there is a deadline for using the administrative funds from CPC and for CPA money appropriated at Town Meeting.

Dot Spaulding has received two quotes for work on the West School registry application, one of which is too high. Barbara suggested talking to Ashley Pinard about whether one quote would be sufficient.

IX. New Members

Associate members are still needed.

Old and New Business

Commission members have signed the town harassment policy.

Dot Spaulding has two requests for historical plaques. Barbara Clancy said that she would send Dot some information on plaque companies that she found online. Bob Norton is also willing to look for a craftsperson and Dot will send him the sign specs. Two people want to put plaques on their homes.

Barbara will ask Joyce Sampson at the Select Board office about setting up Zoom meetings for 2024.

X. Correspondence

None received.

XI. Adjournment

Stacen Goldman made and Andy Crosby seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion approved unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Minutes submitted by: Barbara Clancy

Barbara Clancy

Minutes Approved: 1/10/24