

Ashland Historical Commission

Town of Ashland, Massachusetts
Historical Commission (HC) Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2017

Present HC Members: Elizabeth Whitham, Cynthia Winterhalter, Tom Cuddy, Justin Depasse, Peter Castagnetti and Jim Norton

Guests in attendance: Cynthia Whitty

Justin opened the meeting at 7:00

Minutes from Dec 13 meeting were accepted as read

Guest-

Cynthia Whitty briefed the Commission on an outreach plan she developed to help the AHC to cultivate community awareness and support around some of our most recent initiatives.

- Restoring the town cemeteries
- Developing a historical district in the downtown
- Ongoing efforts to preserve key sites and buildings

Cynthia informed the AHC that she is the editor for the Ashland Local Town Pages newspaper and she is committed to help the Commission get the good word out. Cynthia shared a detailed plan outlining how we get the commission more visibility in town, collaborate with town hall and how to leverage best practices from other local Historical Commissions. She also suggested that we Invite Beth Reynolds to our next meeting. Beth is the new economic development director. Cynthia said to send news items by the 15th of the month for the following month news print.

Planning Board & Historical Commission - Notification process-

Justin reached out to Josh Chase the assistant town planner, Justin invited Josh to our January and February AHC meetings- the Intent is to provide a framework for when a request comes into the Planning office then the AHC is automatically notified **PRIOR** to removing trees or Stone Walls.

CPC Historic District & Information Signs- Survey-

The commission reviewed the "draft" CPA "Private" Historic projects- Ashland CPC Policy. Cynthia Winterhalter briefed the commission on the Federated Church projects and shared e-mail from Beth Rosenblum of the CPA committee, Beth urges the Federated Church folks to attend the next CPC meeting and asked that the AHC and Fed Church group reviews the CPA funding of "Private" Historic Projects policy to ensure we are in compliance with new requirements to be eligible for funding.

Goals and projects for the CPC-

1. CIRCA Signs - install and get the word out
2. National Registry
 - John Stones Inn
 - Indian Burial ground
 - Ocean House
 - Post Office
 - Dwight Printing Company
3. Information Signs -Tom will take the lead on generating write ups for significant Historical areas around town. Then the idea is to place a plaque with the write up at the site for public viewing.

Ferdenzi house

Justin briefed the commission on the Ferdenzi house, bedroom and closet upstairs are worth salvaging, Front door is of interest and Justin urges quick action to beat the demolition crew. Tom, Peter and Cliff Wilson will store the salvageable items in the Historical Society barn. Need keys from Steve Greenberg to access the Ferdenzi site.

Massachusetts Preservation Projects fund- Grant application process & upcoming workshops-

Most of these State meetings are mid-day. Justin will write up grant requests to the state, Christopher Skelly is the Point of Contact Director of legal Government offices to solicit possible Historic preservation grant opportunities - application is due March 24, 2017.

Motion to adjourn by Cynthia Winterhalter, second by Peter