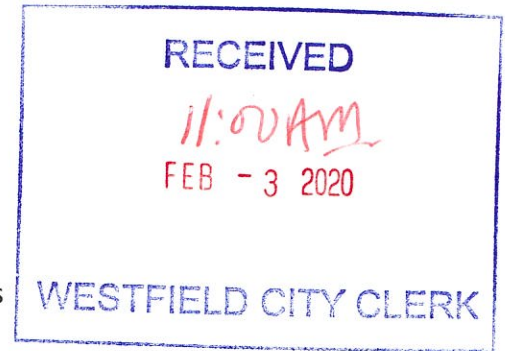




Westfield Historical Commission
January 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes



Attendance: Commissioners Carly Bannish, Ellen McEwan, Debbie Oppermann, and Michael Ingraham were present. Absent: Commissioners Gaylord and Bronson.

Commissioner Bannish called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Public Participation: None.

Secretary's Report:

Commissioner Bannish asked if everyone had reviewed former commission secretary Goodheart Parks' December 2019 minutes. All agreed they had. Commissioner Ingraham made a motion to accept the Secretary's Report. Commissioner Oppermann seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Commissioner Bannish, Treasurer, reported the following balances:
General Fund: \$4,000
Historical Gift Account: \$16,968.42

Mail:

Commissioner Oppermann reviewed information on two letters received since the last meeting. The first, from Shannon Walsh, Historic Preservation Planner with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, presented historic preservation services and their costs provided by the Planning Commission. The second, a January 24, 2020 letter that the Westfield Historical Commission was copied on, from Brona Simon, Director, MA Historical Commission (MHC) to Attorney Szawlowski representing the owners of 89 Elm Street (the former Lambson Furniture building) outlining comments on a historic tax credit application submitted by the owner. The owner is expected to address the issues raised by MHC in a subsequent application.

Unfinished Business:

Historic lectures update – Commissioner Bannish stated that while she did not have all of the information regarding the three lectures remaining in the series provided under Westfield's 350th birthday commemoration, she thought that one was a talk to be provided by Walter Powell regarding the Civil War and that another was about the history of First Congregational Church. Commission Chair Gaylord is expected to provide more information at the March meeting.

New Pocket Sites Tour- Although this item was not listed on the agenda, Commissioner Oppermann stated that she has begun her research on Italian immigration to Westfield for a pocket tour. Commissioners Ingraham and McEwan also stated that they have begun their

research as well on the Bhutan/Nepalese & Puerto Rican immigration and Irish immigration respectively.

New Business:

New OBG ideas - Ideas for a proposed information pamphlet on the OBG will be discussed at the next meeting as well as the new sign. Commissioner Bannish reminded the Commissioners that we voted to move forward with restoration of the iron work around one family plot to be done by Tamara Conte. As far as new ideas for fundraising, Commissioner Bannish mentioned that a Murder Mystery dinner at the First Congregational Church was being considered.

Election of Officers – Commissioner presented a slate of officers for the coming year:

Chairperson – Cindy Gaylord

Vice Chairperson – Carly Bannish

Secretary – Debbie Oppermann

Commissioner McEwan made a motion to accept the slate of officers as presented,

Commissioner Ingraham seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Adjourn: Commissioner McEwan made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Bannish seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: no February meeting, March 16, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie U. Oppermann, Commissioner
Westfield Historical Commission