

Westfield Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes- February 22, 2021

Attendees: Cindy Gaylord (Chairperson), Carly Bannish, Cindy Bronson, Crystal Hollister, Mike Ingraham, Ellen McEwan.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Secretary's report: A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the January meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report: Carly Bannish reported that there have been no changes in the Historical Gift Fund (\$7716.55) or the General Fund (\$3870.09).

Public Participation:

Dennis Picard was invited to speak about options for moving the One Room SchoolHouse-his visit has been postponed to the March meeting.

Unfinished Business:

1. Plaque for Old Burying Ground (OBG): Mike I recommended adding information about iconography/headstone symbols to the plaque. Fred Gore will be asked to take the pictures for this project.
2. Virtual Tour Advertising: Crystal is in the process of creating a flyer using QR Codes to be displayed around town. Will also be contacting Danny Nason/Experience Westfield to help get the word out on Facebook.
3. Immigrant report reminder: 3 groups have launched so far in the Virtual Tours. Need the Bhutanese/Nepali passage (4-5 sentences) to be sent to Carly Bannish.
4. OBG repairs: Cindy G has made contact with Alvin Brown, at the Tech Academy, who may be able to help with the welding of the OBG front gate. Crystal reported that Home Depot does not donate tool rental time, but may be able to give a donation to help defray the cost of metal brushes and paint in the spring once the gate is repaired. Tamara needs to finish the painting on the wrought iron enclosure. Initial installments were paid out of the Community Preservation Funds. When the job is done, the remaining balance due to her will be paid out of the WHC account.
5. Updating Terms: Ellen has not received confirmation from City Hall yet, but has reached out to them. Cindy B still needs a city email address, she will reach out to the IT Department (Lenore Bernashe) again.

New Business

1. Virtual Historic Tours: Edwin Smith Museum, Dewey House, Downtown Monuments are done. Next to be completed: Immigrants. Future projects: Industries, Whips, Architecture of Westfield

(Bob Brown may be able to assist, he did a lecture on Historic Buildings of Westfield) and Civics Tour of City Hall to connect to the new 8th grade Civics and Government curriculum and the 8th and 9th grade civics project requirement at our schools.

2. WHC requests:
 - a. Mike received a request from Sean Moorehouse for information on how to get Bullens Field on the Historic Registry. It was recommended that he speak with Anne Lantini as she has gone through the process several times.
 - b. The Wheeler Family from British Columbia is looking for information about their ancestors who lived here. So far no graves have been found. The family may have moved to Cummington around 1737, so it is likely that they may have burial sites there.

Next meetings: March 15, 2021 and April 19th, 2021 -6pm.

Adjourn: 6:32 Ellen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Crystal Hollister, WHC Commissioner