



Westfield Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes- April 25, 2022 in person

Attendees: Cindy Gaylord (Chairperson), Carly Bannish (Treasurer), Crystal Hollister (Secretary), Cindy Bronson, Kathi Palmer, Nick Aieta. Absences: Mike Ingraham.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Secretary's report: A motion was made by Carly and seconded by Kathi to accept the minutes of the March meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report: Carly reported that there has been no change to the General Fund (\$2848.36) or the Historical Gift Fund (\$7704.97).

Mail:

1. A notice was received about roadwork that will be done soon that will impact the curbs along Franklin Street to make them ADA compliant.
2. Also received a request from Jane Merrill for contact information for Bob Brown (he helped her with some research).

Public Participation: None

Unfinished Business:

1. OBG Lighting/Tree removal: Monies are available in the Parks and Rec Department for Old Burying Ground (OBG) improvements. Approximately \$8000 for lighting and \$6000 to remove some of the trees that are encroaching on stones or are diseased/dead.
2. Coffee Time Tours: Kathi is still working on date(s) for this.
3. Historical Gift Form: Nick will take a look at adding another section to detail the purpose of the loan as well as a record of how and from whom the item was obtained.
4. Cleaning Day: June 12th. Nick will inquire about bringing a trailer. If any commissioners have pull carts, please bring them as well for brush removal. Commissioners could also bring misters, jugs of water, plastic brushes and wooden paint stirrers. Nick will see what billing options are available if we were to have a coffee truck on site. Cindy will talk to Tammy Tefft about billing as well.
5. Falley Armory: About 15 people attended. Ted and Mo Boisseau were especially helpful in finding the location. Kathi will send a thank you note to them. Cindy Bronson got some excellent pictures of the foundation as well as the stone from the water wheel. It appears that the 1925 picture that was thought to be the Armory was likely a grist mill. The Armory was further south, and on the opposite side of the river from where it was originally thought to be. With the JJ Lavalley house foundation on the right, the armory is diagonally left.
6. Owen's Cemetery Clean Up: May 1st meet at 1pm. Commissioners could also bring misters, jugs of water, plastic brushes and wooden paint stirrers to clean the stones.
7. King Street Church: It is unclear if the new owner of the Christian Science Church on King St. is still interested in applying for CPA Funds. If they are still pursuing this, we will need to determine

if this is a site of historical significance to Westfield. Commissioners were divided and are not ready yet to vote. To help us make this decision, Commissioners are asked to come to the next meeting with a list of possible criteria for deeming a site to be of historical significance.

8. Historic District Signage: Kathi is still following up on this.
9. Cindy G will print a certificate to send to Ellen for her 27 years of service.
10. Whip Factory: The University may be interested in a museum at this location. Hopefully more information will be forthcoming.

New Business

1. Pinehill Cemetery: Dale Dixon's request for a CPA grant to fix the fencing at Pine Hill Cemetery has been approved. The City Council will now decide whether to approve. The sidewalks are being redone, so if the City Council approves the grant, the repairs will likely be postponed until after this work is completed.
2. Historic Ghost Tour: Cindy G. will bring old scripts to the June meeting for Commissioners to determine what combination of people/time periods we want to highlight this year. Tours are scheduled to be on Sept 30th & October 1st with a 6:30 or 7pm start.
3. Schoolhouse: There are \$72,000 of CPC funds available for the schoolhouse project. We need to make a plan to determine what repairs/improvements ought to be made next.
4. Old Town Hall: The First Congregational Church is going to open a thrift store in this location to pay for the maintenance of this building until further notice. The hope is to keep this historic structure in use so it doesn't get demolished.
5. Murder Mystery Dinner: No new updates- Kathi is still working on this idea. She will base the characters on people from the OBG, and create a song about the cemetery. The Theater Group will donate two tickets for the winner who guesses the "murderer." This would be January/February of next year.
6. There may be a portrait of Richard Falley in Nebraska. Nick will reach out to the Lincoln Historical Society to see if they have any information.
7. Reminder: We will be short two Commissioners for the May meeting- everyone remaining must attend in order for us to have a quorum.

Next meetings: May 16, June 20.

Adjourn: At 8:50 Nick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cindy B seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Crystal Hollister, WHC Commissioner