



Westfield Historical Commission
September 16, 2019 Meeting Minutes



Commissioners Cindy Gaylord, Ellen McEwan, Cindy Bronson, Debbie Oppermann, and Amanda Goodheart Parks present. Commissioner Bannish absent. Commissioner Gaylord called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

Public Participation:

Robert Madison of Feeding Hills, MA attended the meeting on behalf of the Southwick Historical Society. Mr. Madison questioned the Commission regarding the status of the canal marker signs he presented about during the November 2018 meeting. Commissioner Gaylord will reach out to Mark Cressoti, City Engineer, regarding delivery of the signs as well as the proper placement of the signs in the city.

Gene Borowski, owner of the former Lambson Furniture Company (Bentley Billiards) building located at 81-89 Elm Street; and Tristham Metcalfe, of Metcalfe Associates Architecture in Northampton, MA, presented their plans for renovating the property. They seek a letter of support from the Commission to pursue CPC funding for the exterior renovation, as the building is currently listed on the city's list of Properties of Historical Significance. They plan a mixed use building which may include retail, restaurants, manufacturing, offices, and/or warehouses as well as both low-income and higher end apartments on the upper floors. The owner committed to signing a Preservation Restriction Agreement along the lines of the agreement signed for the Bismarck Hotel by Pilgrim Union Realty and the city in 2018. Commissioner McEwan made motion to write a letter of support, Commissioner Oppermann seconded. Commissioner Gaylord will write and send the letter.

Michael Ingraham of Southampton, MA attended the meeting as a member of the public. His status as a Commissioner is still pending approval of the PAC.

Secretary's Report:

Commissioner Goodheart Parks, Secretary submitted minutes from the August 2019 Meeting. Commissioner Bronson made a motion to accept the secretary's report. Commissioner McEwan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Commissioner Gaylord reported the following balances on behalf of Commissioner Bannish:
General Fund: \$5,125.00
Historical Gift Account: \$14,864.42
G/L Account: No report given from City Auditor this month.

Mail:

None.

Unfinished Business:

2019 Old Burying Ground Ghost Tours Prep:

Ticket sales are going well at the Athenaeum. There will be a rehearsal for ghosts and technical team members on Sunday September 22nd. Commissioner Gaylord will be placing an ad in the Westfield Evening News to promote the tours.

Letter to American Legion Post 124:

Commissioner Goodheart Parks reported that the letter of support requested by the American Legion Post 124 during the August 2019 meeting was delivered as promised.

Historic Newspapers:

Mr. Ingraham stated he would inquire with the Westfield High School librarian regarding a potential donation of the papers to the school.

350th Lecture Series Update:

Commissioner Gaylord discussed several potential speakers for a Fall 2019-Spring 2020 lecture series. These lectures will be funded by the 350th Committee.

Historic Pamphlet:

Commissioner Oppermann will bring sample pamphlets and pricing to review at our next meeting.

New Business:

New Pocket Sites tour:

Tabled until next meeting due to Commissioner Bannish's absence.

Sign/Marker for Old Burying Ground:

Commissioner Gaylord reported she is researching options for Old Burying Ground signage.

Teacher Textbooks:

Commissioner Gaylord received a donation of teacher textbooks from the early 20th century. She will inquire with the special collections and archives at Westfield State University to see if they would like the donation.

New Commissioner Update:

Mike Ingraham of Southampton, MA will be attending his PAC approval meeting this week.

Commissioner McEwan made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Bronson seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: October 21, 2019, November 18, 2019, December 16, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Goodheart Parks, Ph.D., Secretary
Westfield Historical Commission