

**Sturbridge Historic Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, June 15, 2023  
Center Office Building**



APPROVED

**Present:**

Richard Volpe, Chair  
Charles Blanchard  
Barbara Search  
Wally Hersee  
Jeneé Lacy, Administrative Assistant

R. Volpe called the meeting to order at 1 PM.

**Approval of Minutes**

May 3, 2023

**Motion: To approve minutes of May 3, 2023 as written.**

**By: C. Blanchard**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: W. Hersee**

**Vote: 4-0**

**Continued review of materials for the Community Wide Historic Preservation Plan**

R. Volpe stated that he spoke with J. Bubon and that he is not pleased with the draft Historic Preservation Plan that was submitted to the Commission from PAL. The Commission discussed and agreed that PAL would not be used as a vendor again in the future and that the Commission would go to CPC for future funding instead of apply for a historical grant.

The Commission went through the draft Historic Preservation Plan and discussed the following edits to be submitted back to PAL:

- Page 2
  - Line 1 strike "the" before Sturbridge
  - Section 6 line 3 add "s" to survey
- Page 11
  - Change spelling Robyn Chrabascz
- Page 16
  - Mention the Rotary's stewardship of the ongoing communication back to Stourbridge, England. (See town hall plaques across from Finance)
  - The Historical Society is not a formalized non-profit, it is a local organization.
  - The name of the church is the Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale and it was built in 1910.
- Page 17
  - Do you want to add Ann Gobi as new Director of Rural Affairs to the list?

- Page 22
  - 1st para. I would suggest adding a more recent reference and understanding of the relationship between Nipmuc and English settlers. There may be a contrast between 1975 and the present interpretations of the relationship.
  - A sentence should be added referencing that in 1816 acreage from Sturbridge was given to form the Town of Southbridge.
- Page 26
  - 3rd line Provide name of the president of the company
- Page 29
  - Change Rt. 86 to Rt. 84 (it is the same Route but changed from 86 to 84 and Rt. 84 is what people are familiar with)
- Page 34
  - Clarification on what the intent of Table 1 is. Is it a list of Town owned property or historic property?
    - If it is a list of historic properties, it should be indicated which are Town owned and which are not.
    - If it is a list of Town owned properties, there are some missing.
- Page 36/37
  - St. Anne is Historic but not Town owned.
  - Markers, Monuments and Memorials - discussed
- Page 43/44
  - Pioneer Valley Planning Commission should be recognized for recommending the list.
- Page 41-44
  - There is no mention that all the buildings suggested for the National Register on pages 41-44 were recognized by the Historical Commission with a presentation of the survey and a plaque to the owners. The Abner Allen House was given a plaque for historical restoration because the survey did not capture the fact that the original building burned and was historically restored by the owner.
- Page 49
  - Demo Delay para. Include a photo of the current location of the Chamberlain Barn indicating the results of a Demo Delay.
- Page 71
  - 51 Bennetts Road is not lost. Owners are rehabbing the interior. It appears the building remains. – Please take out reference to 51 Bennetts Road.
- Note:
  - The open space database was just updated, will make a new open space map and update the map that Leadmine Lake was left out of when she is back from Vacation.

R. Volpe stated that after the Preservation Plan is completed they will schedual a meeting to go through it and start the planning phase.

C. Blanchard stated that they need to start publicizing for educational purposes.

### **Old/New Business**

The Commission discussed the Master Plan process and current building projects in Town including the Senior Center renovation.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion: To adjourn**

**By: R. Volpe**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: C. Blanchard**

**Vote: All in Favor (4-0)**

Meeting adjourned at 1:52 PM