

**Sturbridge Historic Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 14, 2024
Center Office Building**

Present:

Richard Volpe, Chair
Barbara Search
Bill Barnsley
Jean Bubon, Town Planner

Absent:

Charles Blanchard
Wally Hersee

R. Volpe called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and welcomed new member Bill Barnsley.

Approval of Minutes

November 28, 2023

B. Search stated there was one mistake in road name and two other typos that needed to be corrected in the minutes. The changes will be made by J. Bubon.

Motion: To approve minutes of November 28, 2023 as amended.

By: B. Search

2nd: R. Volpe

Vote: 2-0-1 (B. Barnsley Abstained)

Updates on presentations of the Historic Preservation Plan to other departments

J. Bubon provided an update on the Committee presentations done as of this date; those include:

Board of Selectmen – most Commission members attended and R. Volpe presented
Community Preservation Committee – B. Search and W. Hersee
Planning Board – C. Blanchard and W. Hersee presented
Library Trustees – W. Hersee

Members thought it may be appropriate to make presentations to the Conservation Commission and Sturbridge Tourist Association.

Discuss which of the first short term goals to begin

Discuss projects for the rest of the year

A priority goal for the Commission is to update the website to have more information available in a more user-friendly manner. J. Bubon indicated that the town website had limitations in terms of look of the site and how things could be organized, but she would have J. Lacy research other sites and have information available for the next meeting of the types of things other Commissions have on their websites and changes that could be made. She asked if members had certain items they would like to see posted. Items discussed were:

- Cemetery work done and Bill Barnsley's documentation.
 - Map & research
 - Find a grave
 - Library site – research, genealogy
- The Baypath – report by R. Skinner with mapping by R. Skinner and J. Bubon
- Gravestone reports restoration
- Better information on each cemetery in town. It was noted that Evergreen Cemetery in Leominster was a good example
 - Check with DPW on available Cemetery records

Review the Historic Inventory Map as a starting point to determine next survey areas

The Commission noted several survey updates needed (from surveys already completed) including:

- The OSV property where Sawdust Café is located
- The former Friendly's Ice Cream location (now Gido's)
- Members will look through and make note of any errors found for future updates

It was noted by both R. Volpe and B. Search that it does not seem all the survey work completed by PVPC and PAL is contained on the website. J. Bubon noted that J. Lacy is continuing to work on that and she will have her review and follow-up with an update to be provided at the next meeting.

Discuss existing historic inventory and locations for next survey work pending funding at the Annual Town Meeting

J. Bubon provided a large map showing locations of town that have been surveyed. She wanted the Commission to begin to think about areas they would like to include for the next round of surveys. The recently completed Historic Preservation Plan should be reviewed for recommended areas to be included. She would like a definite

recommendations from the Commission by the end of May so that and RFP can be drafted and be ready to publish at the start of the new fiscal year.

Project Notification Form – Grand Trunk Trail

The Commission review the PNF for the Grand Trunk Trail work and noted that the town has no records of resources in the Farquhar Road – Haynes Street area. Mass Historic should be consulted. J. Bubon noted that the appropriate forms had been filed with Mass Historic for that purpose.

Old/New Business

- B. Barnsley asked what it would take to organize a group of volunteers to clean stones using D2. J. Bubon noted that the DPW Director would need to be consulted on this as the care of the cemetery is under her purview.
- STA had offered to print brochures about the Old Burial Grounds, but B. Barnsley thought it should be listed as a tourist attraction but did have concerns about safety. J. Bubon stated that there are hundreds of people visiting the cemetery looking for ancestors each year. She thought that a brochure would actually be helpful.

Next Meeting Date –

April 18th at 10:00 am. Agenda Items – review website recommendations and/or potential change. Members can bring ideas and can view the website on the projector for further input. Continued discussion of survey areas. Any other items added.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

By: R. Volpe

2nd: B. Search

Vote: All in Favor (3-0)

Meeting adjourned at 11:11 AM