

**Historic Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 22, 2022
Center Office Building**



APPROVED

Present:

Wally Hersee
Barbara Search
Richard Volpe
Jeneé Lacy, Administrative Assistant
Jean Bubon, Town Planner
Laura Kline, The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

Absent:

Charlie Blanchard

Historical Commission meeting to discussed Historical Survey Project

B. Search discussed CPC projects:

- Library building improvements;
- Bob Brier – Work and preservation of stones in newer cemetery and work on stones in both cemeteries;
- Storm windows updated on Town buildings.

J. Bubon - there is not enough awareness about CPC, and that anyone can request money for private proposals, more historical money could be used if more people knew.

B. Search – Leon (former TA) suggested that the Historical Committee have money for individual homes that needed work done.

J. Bubon – Discussed what Palmer design guidelines for historic renovation.

B. Search – could that fall under the preservation plan project?

L. Kline – Yes and needs to know who the stakeholders are.

J. Bubon – Local Historical Society

B. Search – Historical Society only have speakers, not really active in other ways.

Group – Discussed Sandra Gibson-Quigley and Bob Biere as stakeholders
Discussed places to find archival information: Library, Old Sturbridge Village, The Publick House

J. Bubon stated that she would find an appropriate contact person for Laura at Old Sturbridge Village and the contacts for the Publick House would be Michael Glick and Michael Harrington.

R. Volpe – is the Common owned by the Town and is there any historical information.

J. Bubon – the Common is owned by the Town.

W. Hersee – discussed some history of the Town Common.

Group – discussed arch. excavations around the town.

Discussed plaques for the Town Common.

W. Hersee – discussed the history of the Publick House (WWII used as bunkers, rumors of tunnels under the Town Common)

B. Search – 50 years or older for the Historical Survey instead of 100 now.

J. Bubon – would like to find a way to encourage people not to change historic buildings in Fiskdale since there is a lot of turnover.

Group – Discussed business improvements, past work with businesses, working together to decorate etc., and encouraging business owners to have consistency.

B. Search – Discussed historic signs.

Group – Discussed The Chamber helping but they are regional.

J. Bubon – Ware, planters in front of stores down town. Discussed how to make people realize how preservation is important.

L. Kline – Will pull all this information to take inventory.

B. Search – Sturbridge has no garden club.

Group – Possible resources – Rotary Club, Lions Club, Terry Masterson (Eco. Development Coordinator), Becky Plimpton (Library Director)

L. Kline - What are other areas of concern for the Town.

J. Bubon – around Town Common, educate people about their historic properties, plaques on homes (People not putting them up when they are awarded them), have a speaker about why historic registry houses are important.

B. Search – State Agencies, how to support historic homes, discussed realtors in town.

Group – Discussed what houses were missed in the last survey.

B. Search – Would like to get into the Library at OSV.

J. Bubon – will reach out to Jim Donahue.

Group – Discussed space for preservation society case at the Center Office Building, it is currently not used for what was envisioned.

Discussed library having photo artifacts that they were trying to get rid of, not sure where those went.

L. Kline – Any selectmen or others in Town Government that could be resources?

- Charlie Blanchard & Wally Hersee

L. Kline – Environmental concerns that would impact historical?

J. Bubon – Nothing really, discussed flood maps FEMA released.

- Added Carol Goodwin of the Open Space Committee as a possible resource.

L. Kline – Asked about walking tours.

J. Bubon – Stated that they used to do Walktober through The Last Green Valley but not anymore.

Group – Discussed the STA (Sturbridge Tourism Association) promotion of tourism in the community, discussed the Opacum Land Trust, Leadmine property, graphite mine.

- Discussed the possibility that the Assessor could let us know when a historical property in town has sold and we could send out a historic welcome packet.