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Sturbridge Historical Commission

October 10, 2019 Minutes

Attendance: Barbara Search, Chair; Richard Volpe, Vice Chair; Cathy Zavistoski, Secretary, Bailey Applegate, Charles Blanchard
Public attendee: Jeff Bridges

Call to Order: 6 p.m.

Review 4/11/19 Minutes

R Volpe – motion to accept

B Applegate – 2nd

R Volpe, B Applegate, B Search & C Zavistoski approve

C Blanchard abstain

Review 5/23/19 Minutes

R Volpe – motion to accept

B Applegate – 2nd

R Volpe, B Applegate, B Search & C Zavistoski approve

C Blanchard abstain

B Search – Cemetery Signs

Global Signs - \$493 each sign + \$145 installation = \$1,101

If use street metal sign & pressure treated posts instead of metal total = \$701

R Volpe – we have \$1K for this project. Short \$101

B Search – emailed Barbara Barry – move funds from plaques (Betterment budget) to keep poles metal

R Volpe – move to go with metal posts

C Zavistoski – 2nd

All approve

B Search – Preservation plaques – recommend larger plaques

C Zavistoski – why is this better?

B Search – Leaves room on edges to add holes

B Search – start with from list Haynes Corner – multiple structures

\$17.50 each – total \$507.50

B Search – plaque for Publick House – would like to work on the wording for the plaque. Find a better way to phrase it

C Zavistoski – we should work on it & have it ready to vote on at the next meeting

B Search – will send out current version & people should reply to that with their thoughts

It would be \$50 more for a bigger plaque – grand total for all plaques \$557.50

B Search – will need names of current owners for parchments to be presented to home owners

10/10/17

C Blanchard – my house has the wrong dates in the documentation. Current house dates back to 1880 – renovated in 1940's. The current house was built by Farquar. The original house was built by Dr. Jacob Cory Sr.

B Search – will send updated info to Pioneer Valley to have the listing updated

B Applegate – the National Register will only list things by what they see outside

[B Applegate departs meeting]

B Search – Grant time again – apply for 50/50 match from Mass Historical for continued Historical Survey. Can use recommendations from PAL on what to do next

Eligible for grant:

- 1) Surveys (like those done with PAL)
- 2) Do research to get building on National Register. Owners must agree to add
- 3) Create community preservation plan
- 4) Create historic district. Owners of properties in the district would have to agree & Board of Selectmen would need to get involved & approve.

C Blanchard – previous attempt to do a Historic District around the common was faced with a lot of resistance from property owners

B Search – what about preservation of historic documents

R Volpe – would be able to use funds to preserve documents in library

B Search – smaller grants are available to do archive work. CPC may also have funds available

Jeff (?) – get a grant to structure an archive plan & then the next step would be to do the archiving

B Search – PAL suggested a National Register document – comprehensive survey last updated in 1970 around the Common

Survey & planning grant – 1st letter has to be in by November 18th & do not have the time to do it

R Volpe -need to decide which program. Possible to see last year's letter of intent?

B Search – will send out a copy to everyone

B Search – large grants are only done every other year. Could apply for a smaller grant to do the archive project

Will send out the document with the Publick House plaque wording, last year's letter or intent & the info on who has grant funds for archive project.

B Search – could apply for CPC funds for the cemetery project

For the storm windows (which there is a budget of \$15K for) there ^{were} no bids last time it was posted. There is a new facilities person who is looking into this