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Sturbridge Historical Commission Minutes May 23, 2019

Attendance: Barbara Search, Chair; Richard Volpe, Vice Chair; Bailey Applegate; member: Bill Barnsley, guest; Absent Cathy Zavistoski, secretary

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

Minutes: None

Discussion on May 6 BOS meeting regarding signs at each cemetery outlining acceptable behavior in the cemeteries. BS, RV, Bill Barnsley, Bob Briere, Jim Fannin attended that meeting and spoke in favor of banning gravestone rubbing, applying chemical, powders, liquids, solutions, not allowing dogs to run free and clean up waste, attaching anything to the gravestone, or any other activity that would cause damage to the gravestones. The BOS want an exception for the Burgess 3rd grade classes that study town history and do gravestone rubbing. It was decided to have Jim Fannin chose three stones that could be rubbed with minimal damage for the 3rd grade. The HC will have wording for the signs approved by the BOS.

A discussion of borrowing the cemetery records from the DPW for the purpose of scanning them at the Library providing access online to anyone interested in the information. Moved by BA, 2nd by RV unanimous vote in favor.

BS has written an article for the newspapers about cemetery rules which will be sent out after the signs are installed. Moved by RV, 2nd by BA, unanimous vote in favor.

The plaque for the Publick House will be 8 X 6 in. and give a circa date. The house plaques will be 4 X 6 in. and also give a circa date when there is a span for construction. All plaques for 2 years will be made up at the same time for houses deemed eligible after further research to be submitted to the to the National Register per the surveys of Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and Public Archaeology Laboratories. It is a total of about 25 buildings and the presentations will be for 2019 and 2020. Moved by RV 2nd by BA unanimous vote in favor.

Recognition Certificates to Bill Barnsley for his work on the Old Burial Ground and to Bob Briere for his lifetime work on the history of Sturbridge will also be made and presented. Moved by BA, 2nd by RV, unanimous vote in favor.

RV will be attending the ATM. BS will be away that day. He can address any questions that might come up regarding the HC.

BS will contact Barbara Barry about how to handle money from Betterment for the plaques and CPA for the money for the signs since neither will be expended before the end of the fiscal year.

Old Business - nothing on storm windows, expect movement after ATM

New Business - none

Adjourn: 6:29 moved BA, 2nd RV unanimous vote in favor.

10/10/19

B Search – will request to hold the \$15K budget over. Apply for grant if able to do the two buildings together. To get the grant will need the project to be at least \$30K

Jeff – will check with Robin (new facilities person) to get an estimate on doing all the windows

B Search – are we going to go for the grant?

C Zavistoski – recommend going through the CPC as that would be easier

R Volpe – CPC has a \$2 million budget. Will need Board of Selectmen to approve – should approve as it is town property

B Search – discuss putting signs into Fiskdale district. Historic markers

R Volpe – let's table that for a future meeting

B Search – will list Historic Marker signs as new business for later

R Volpe – motion to adjourn

B Search – 2nd

All approve

Adjourned 7:15pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy Zavistoski, Historical Commission