

January 8th 2024 Minutes

January West Brookfield Historical Commission Notes

Attendees: Louise Garwood, Jesse Morrison, Heather Walker, Anne-Marie Nolan, Ryan Gough & Rachel Gulen

Agenda

Discussions re: December's meeting minutes

Pending Business

Treasurer's Report

Appointment Updates

175th Celebration

Old Indian Cemetery

Old Methodist Cemetery

Demolition Delay for 2024 Town Meeting

Scenic Road (see new business)

New Business:

Notes

Meeting Opened - Louise called meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Last Month's Minutes Approval-

Tree came from England Fund was under new business; move to the Treasurer's report to improve clarity.

Town Account needs to be added to the 175th.

Change Budget discussion to 2025 from 2024

Minutes approval - Vote, December's meeting minutes to be amended as discussed above.

Raised by Heather, Seconded by Louise and carried by the members.

Discussions re: December's meeting minutes:

Treasurer's Report: was presented by Heather Walker. Heather presented expenses approved in prior meetings and Heather has receipts. Town officers are playing catch up as we are still trying to figure out the state of accounts since pandemic. We received 2024 disbursement from England fund. \$49 to frame certificate for Bill. \$8.92 to replace coffee used at the Senior Center for the 175th Celebration. Sold 3 books; money goes to the town and discussed how to complete the deposit slip. England fund check was made out to old HC Chair. Rg made motion to accept Treasurer's report as presented by Heather; Jesse seconded. Motion carried by members.

Appointment Updates: Takes 4 to make a quorum moving forward. Do we need to keep a copy of the new certificates? New goal, for May meeting, to review who needs to enter the renewal letter process. Rg to research what the new process is since she is impacted first. Don't forget Conflict on Interest training.

175th: 62 attendees. Discussed doing a once per year joint event with the Historical Society.

Bill stated that he has some stuff that he wants to give to the Historical Commission.

Old Indian Cemetery: Field works starts in Spring 2024. No actual estimate for date to commence at present. Otherwise, status quo.

Old Methodist Cemetery: Confirmed WB ownership through maintenance with Ben Haley, Parks Service of MA Historical Commission. There is meeting planned for Amy to get state of project in order to submit her proposal.

Demolition Delay: Jesse still contacting local towns to set up meetings with other local historical commissions to learn more about their processes. Jesse had read through Amherst

information. Still had not heard anything from Sturbridge. Multiple members notated that Building Inspector enforces; but main task is to not issue permit and notify the HC. Idea to look at last 10 demolitions; raised concern that Building Inspector may not want to share details. We are using 100 years as the cut off. We have a historic center; not a historical district due to restrictions.

Jacob Knight: Heather received a video of the space for planning purposes. 10-12 prints and photo's from Jacob's artist friend. Heather stated that she needs to finish organizing the exhibit in January. Louise is designing a poster. Someone to organize list of folks to receive formal invitations and then Rg can order and mail them. We will start with the Little Marshy Meadow list and members to bring their additions. Heather to reach out to the Artist's friend to see if he wants to invite anyone. We do need to hang exhibit the Friday prior. Heather is planning to make notes for each town print.

Scenic Road Process: Louise updated the scenic road informational sheet, it will now be a two-sided bi-fold. Louise added a new section of why we need the scenic road protection. There was a discussion regarding whether we are leveraging the state or a local by-law. List is on-hold as the town office is slammed with work and the clerk is unclear with the process used in the past to filter to new owners. Louise to research what WB actually has on the books. There is not a lot of interest in town to adding new road signs as they need to leverage existing poles and are not replacing stolen/damage signs.

New Business:

2024 Scholarship: Anne-Marie received post dated letter from Quaboag about Scholarship drive. Ann Marie has updated the information on the document. Will keep to same schools as the years in the past. Suggested adding archival studies or Library Science. Rg offered to research course catalogs and see what the kids are calling some of these things in 2024. Essays are due April 8th. Publicity to solicit applicants. Rg suggested leveraging the PTA.

Motion to Adjourn Meeting: meeting was ended at 8:30 PM. Next Meeting is scheduled for February 5th