

Wales Historical Commission
Wales, Massachusetts 01081

Wales Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: Wales Public Library

Present: Robyn Chrabasz, Lynn Greene, Rod Kincaid, Therisa (Terry) Cook, Rebecca (Becky) Randall-Smith

The group called the meeting to order at 5:12 PM.

Intro/Restart of Commission

Meeting for the first time, the group made introductions with each other and exchanged contact information. Brief history was discussed on historic resources and preservation in Wales; such as the Gatehouse, Old Town Hall, National Register Nominations made in the past, and Main Street Historic District determined eligible but not pursued or able to be completed. Rod mentioned that the Bowden house, the red house at the fountain on Main Street, will be going up for auction on February 28th, 2020.

Review of Bylaws/Enabling Actions/ Setup of Wales Commission

The group discussed the format of the Commission. Robyn mentioned that online, most other commissions appear to have three to seven members, and official roles of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Clerk. Clarification was made that the Town Clerk has verified that the Commission was formed in 1969, and has been idle. Clarification was also made that the Historical Commission is not the same as the Wales Historical Society, that recently restarted by a group of residents who are organizing the collection of files, photos, and other donated items that are in Old Town Hall and the upstairs of the Library. There is a file cabinet holding Historical Commission documents in the upstairs of the Library. Rod and Lynn offered to review these old files for the Commission, since they are also part of the Society working group.

Robyn has been in contact with Chris Skelly from the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), who is a resource for the Commission at the State level, and who can advise and make recommendations to the Commission on roles and responsibilities of the Commission. Robyn will reach out again to see if Chris can make the next meeting to talk to everyone.

MOTION: To elect Rebecca Randall-Smith as Commission Chair. Motion made by Kincaid, seconded by Greene.

VOTE: All in favor. Motion Passed.

MOTION: To elect Therisa Cook as Commission Vice-Chair. Motion made by Greene, seconded by Smith.

VOTE: All in favor. Motion Passed.

MOTION: To elect Robyn Chrabaszcz as Commission Clerk. Motion made by Smith, seconded by Kincaid.

VOTE: All in favor. Motion Passed.

Old Town Hall Discussion

Becky confirmed that the Commission has a line item in the Town budget for \$ 2,500.00. Generally, these funds have been spent in the past on repairs to Old Town Hall. Robyn inquired if the building inspector has done an annual inspection for Old Town Hall, since the Historical Society would like to use it as a museum. Becky will get a copy of the latest inspection for the group.

MOTION: To adjourn, made at 6:07. Motion made by Smith, seconded by Kincaid.

Next Meeting Date To Be Determined

Attachments/ Handouts:

Local Historical Commissions in Massachusetts: A Summary for New Commissioners (from MHC website)