

Wales Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: Wales Town Hall

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

The group called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM.

Meeting Minutes

MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes from the February 11, 2020 meeting. Motion made by Greene, seconded by Smith.

VOTE: All in favor. Motion Passed.

Old Town Hall Discussion

On Friday, March 6, Becky met with the Building Inspector at Old Town Hall. The inspector listed the following items that need to be completed in order for the inspector to issue a one-day use permit for Olde Home Day this year. With the one-day permit, the inspector will also provide a maximum occupancy.

- Replace the existing EXIT lighted sign with a new one with the Accessible Symbol at the Accessible Exit Door on the interior side.
- Replace or repair the railings on the outdoor ramp to comply with accessibility requirements. The existing railings have blunt ends. The top and bottom rails of each side of the ramp should be connected vertically to each other as to not have blunt ends to catch people or things on.
- Rope off the second floor to eliminate public access.

Additionally, the Executive Secretary had National Grid perform an energy audit on Old Town Hall within the last week.

The following action items were discussed:

- Terry will contact Tantasqua to see if they are able to assist with any of the repairs needed above.
- Becky will also work on finding people for the repairs. Robyn noted that any labor for repair work paid for with town funds may be subject to Prevailing Wage Law if not exempt.
- Becky will contact the Board of Selectmen to see if there are funds available in the Building Maintenance account, since these repairs above are general to the building being in use.

Terry mentioned the possibility of state funding with the use of the curatorship program. She will send an email with the information, as well as provided the following website address: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/historic-curatorship-program>

Terry will also share the website address for the National Register application for the commission to review and consider the option of individually listing Old Town Hall on the National Register of Historic Places, or the State Register. Robyn mentioned that in the files the Massachusetts Historic Commission did consider the town's possible historic district as eligible, and the information needed to list Old Town Hall is likely already in the files. Becky also mentioned that we will likely need some of the old church records since this building is significant for its' shared use as church and state.

Discussion of Commission Annual Budget

Becky mentioned the FY2020 has \$750 remaining. The annual budget for the Commission is \$2,500. For FY2021, the Commission did not formally submit anything as we were appointed late in the year, but it is our understanding that the Commission will be level funded for \$2,500.

It is noted that three board members (a quorum) would need to sign to authorize any expenditure of funds.

Discussion of Commission Annual Report

Becky will draft an annual report for the Commission members to review and for submission to the Executive Secretary for inclusion.

Review of Bylaws of Wales Commission

Robyn provided the following text for discussion:

It has been determined that the Wales Historical Commission was established in 1969 and authorized 1970. The following proposed bylaw is meant to formalize this town vote into the bylaw. It is unknown why this was not memorialized in the Bylaws at the time of adoption. (The language italicized below is directly from the Town Meeting.)

ADD under "Town of Wales Acceptance of Provisions" the following paragraph:

The Town of Wales voted on April 15, 1970 at Special Town Meeting (Article 5) to accept Section 8D of Chapter 40 of the General Laws of Massachusetts. *There is hereby established, under the provision of the General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 8D, an Historical Commission of the Town of Wales for the purposes and with the rights and duties provided by law, to be composed of five members, residents of the Town, appointed by the Selectmen for the terms of three years, except that initial appointment shall be one member for one year, two members for two years, and two members for three years.*

MOTION: To allow Robyn to take this language to the Executive Secretary, Town Clerk, and Board of Selectman for their review of next steps and to determine if there should be a motion on the next Town Warrant to formalize the Commission and its authority into the Bylaws. Motion made by Chrabascz, seconded by Kincaid.

VOTE: All in favor. Motion Passed.

Master Plan - Informational

Robyn and Lynn mentioned that the Planning Board, chaired by Lynn, is currently in the process of working with Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) for a Wales Master Plan. In the Master Plan, other

commissions, committees, and boards have implementation goals if the Planning Board adopts the Master Plan as currently drafted. The Planning Board expects to complete the Plan over the next several months.

The Wales Historic Commission is mentioned in the current draft as having the following goals, which the current Historic Commission members generally agreed with:

1. Continue to bring the Historical Commission to full capacity in order to plan for, fund, and promote preservation efforts in the future. (High Priority)
2. Update Wales' Historic Resource Inventory. (Medium Priority)
3. Restore Old Town Hall. (Medium Priority)

MOTION: To adjourn, made at 6:02. Motion made by Smith, seconded by Kincaid.

Next Meeting Date To Be Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at Wales Town Hall.

Attachments/ Handouts: None.

DATE APPROVED: November 18, 2020