

Wales Historical Commission
Wales, Massachusetts 01081

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: Virtual

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

Absent: No Members.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:35 PM.

Meeting Minutes: Discussion of March 11th meeting notes: Becky and Rod requested to change language subject to prevailing wage.

MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes from the March 11, 2020 meeting with changes. Motion made by Kincaid, seconded by Smith. All in favor. Motion Passed.

Discussion of September 30th meeting notes: Members requested additional review time.

Correspondence: No new correspondence.

Old Town Hall (OTH) Discussion

Thank you to Ann Chrabasz and Terry Cook for working to empty OTH. Terry is also working on Christmas lights for the front of OTH. She may need to purchase some items for repair of the Christmas lights. Robyn and Becky will get Terry a tax-exempt letter for purchasing items for the Commission without sales tax.

It is noted that the second floor ceiling remains, with the theater lights – it may have to come down to make safe.

MOTION: Reimburse Terry Cook for any purchases made to repair the decorations for OTH. Made by Smith, seconded by Chrabasz. All in favor, Motion Passed.

Building Inspection Update: No formal report was issued by the Building Inspector from the visit earlier this year. A more recent inspection revealed corrections needed to the front foyer door threshold, and restriction to 25 people maximum. Rod will be ordering rope for the stair and the exit sign.

Energy Audit: There is no energy audit on Old Town Hall. Item Closed.

National Register (NR): Robyn is working on getting cost of an NR submission and reaching out to consultants. WHC files indicate that both OTH and Wales Center Historic District were

submitted in draft form to Massachusetts Historic Commission (MHC) and determined eligible for listing but not completed.

Update on Curatorship Program: This does not seem appropriate for the OTH site at this time. Item Closed.

Museum Discussion: The Historic Society has Cultural Council funds for setting up items in a museum and getting organized. Ann Chrabascz has taken the lead on this, along with Lynn who has been digitizing files.

Ann inquired if the Commission would be going after Cultural Council funds again this year, as the round is open for applications.

MOTION: To allow Chair to submit a Cultural Council application for quilt frame or display. Motion by Chrabascz, seconded by Smith. All in favor, Motion Passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Old Town Hall: Goals and Visions

Goals listed by members are, in no particular order: To see OTH listed on the National Register of Historic Places; to keep OTH standing; to setup a Town-sponsored museum in OTH; to restore OTH and use upstairs again; to maintain artifacts.

MOTION: The Historical Commission will set up a museum in the first floor of OTH. Motion by Kincaid, seconded by Smith. All in favor, Motion Passed.

Commission Member Terms and Expirations: Lynn's appointment has expired, and she is interested in renewing. Becky to notify Select Board for her re-appointment.

Commission Bylaws/Policies Discussion: Robyn has been looking at other commission's bylaws for procedures, etc. Robyn to send around an example of what she is thinking for Wales.

Next meeting to be after the New Year.

MOTION: To adjourn, made at 5:49. Motion made by Smith, seconded by Greene. All in favor, Motion Passed.

Attachments/ Handouts: None.

DATE APPROVED: June 9, 2021