

Wales Historical Commission

Wales, Massachusetts 01081

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, May 5, 2021

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: Virtual

Present: Rebecca (Becky) Smith, Lynn Greene, Robyn Chrabaszcz, Rod Kincaid, Therisa (Terry) Tringali (formerly Cook), Pamela Leduc

Absent: No Members.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM.

Meeting Minutes: Discussion of September 30, 2020 and November 18, 2020 meeting notes: Members requested additional review time.

Correspondence: No new correspondence.

Commission Bylaws/Policies Discussion: Robyn sent around an example of what she is thinking for Wales. Concerns discussed were conflict/duplication of Town bylaws, and concern over purpose. Robyn will revise bylaw draft to simplify it, instead of the copy provided that was all possible options for discussion.

Library Historical Collection & Commission Records: Lynn and her husband Al have been scanning a lot of documents from the library, and organizing for the purpose of curating an exhibit in Old Town Hall. Ann Chrabaszcz has been organizing and re-organizing library shelving, donated shelves, and has been working to re-organize the library second floor to make a historical record area at the back of the room. (With the permission of Nancy Baer, Library Director). Robyn organized inventory and commission folders/files in Library, as they were mixed with what Ann was working on. Not 100% complete but getting closer every day. Suggested next meeting be in library to see progress and layout.

Old Town Hall (OTH) Discussion

National Register (NR): Robyn spoke with PVPC Historic Preservation Planner, Shannon Walsh. Informal inquiry to MHC says they have no draft on file – it appears as if MHC returned it to Wales and it died there circa 1982. According to the informal inquiry, MHC will still require Townwide Inventory completed before the NR of OTH could be submitted. (This aligns with decades of history in the Commission files between Wales and MHC)

Ongoing Items: Becky and Rod will be finalizing items needed to open using Town Building Maintenance funds where coordinated with Executive Secretary, Commission funds, and Cultural Council grant funds accordingly. Becky will coordinate with Joel Jette for small repairs. Current Commission account balance unverified at this time. There is still approximately \$1,200 available from the first grant for more sorting and display items.

NEW BUSINESS

OTH New Items & Old Home Day Preparations

Commission is working to target helping open the building for Old Home Day, set for August 7, 2021. To get the building open, Rod will coordinate with Assessor to look at cabinet in OTH with assessor records for possible actions. Robyn got a price of \$1,000 to open the safe – no action will be taken on this at this time as that is too costly. Keys have been lost for the building, and there are a lot of keys out there.

A Cultural Council application was submitted and granted for two (2) quilt display furniture pieces. Becky has already ordered the items (12-week lead-time) and will continue to coordinate the Cultural Council grants.

MOTION: Becky to coordinate rekeying of all exterior doors at OTH after Memorial Day. Motion made by Smith, seconded by Kincaid. All in favor, Motion Passed.

VFW Coordination: Becky, Rod and Terry went on site visit Monday, May 3 to OTH to review items brought to group by Terry as VFW Quartermaster and VFW appointed liaison. The VFW is looking for a new place to put the flagpole they removed from the flowerbed in front of Cemetery #2. Terry will coordinate the VFW coming to a Commission meeting, as the VFW is a private entity and not a Town board or committee, so they are welcome as the public.

Next meeting to be June 9, 2021 in person at Library at 4.30pm. Group also set two work sessions for OTH prep for June 5 and June 12, which will be posted as a meeting in likelihood of quorum.

MOTION: To adjourn, made at 6:14pm. Motion made by Smith, seconded by Greene. All in favor, Motion Passed.

Attachments/ Handouts: None.

DATE APPROVED: June 9, 2021