

Wales Historical Commission
Wales, Massachusetts 01081

Meeting Minutes

Date: Saturday, January 14, 2023

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: 3 Main Street, Old Town Hall First Floor Museum

Present: Rebecca (Becky) Smith, Robyn Chrabaszcz, Rod Kincaid, Carolyn Boehne, Lynn Greene.

Members Absent: None.

Public - Ann Chrabaszcz, Ella Gregory, JoAnne Higgins, Mike Milanese

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:07AM.

Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes from 10/15/2022. Motion made by Chrabaszcz, seconded by Kincaid. Three in favor, Greene and Boehne abstained. Motion Passed.

Correspondence: None.

Opening museum for events: Group discussed the successful cemetery walk as being part of the future openings, and Ann offered to expand the research on Cemetery #2. Cemetery #3 is not in ideal condition for a walk. Group will return to next meeting with calendar dates for 2023 museum openings and Rod will reach out to Veterans one more time to attempt to coordinate with their memorials, if feasible. August 12th is Old Home Day (OHD), so there will be something the Commission will do to participate on OHD.

Funding opportunities:

Cultural Council 2022: Ann has purchased two tables in excellent conditions from estate/tag sales for reimbursement. Ann offered to continue with expenditures on this grant for furniture and possibly another quilt rack. Rod can order items on Amazon through the town for tax-exempt purchases for other remaining items. This grant likely closes June 30, 2023.

Cultural Council 2023: Becky and Rod submitted and were awarded funds for purchase of equipment for the conversion of VHS tapes of Upside Down Show to digital format for museum viewings or reruns on Cable Access TV, including a monitor. Rod will work on this task, as it would be ideal to complete for OHD.

One-Stop/ Feasibility Study Project: The One-Stop approval for \$98,000 came from the state for the feasibility study. The goals still are to determine what we need to do to OTH for it to be code compliant, safe, energy efficient, and both floors useable. There is no construction money in this grant. It will include hazardous materials testing.

New member and reorganization, upcoming reappointments: Carolyn's term is up 2/9. Becky to notify Pam.

OTH:

- The Board of Selectmen approved Peter Hamm's proposal for a new front door; Becky will follow up with his spring schedule.
- Becky is coordinating with Pam on possible security camera.
- Rod to follow up with Tantasqua electrical about the lights going on and off; the studio may be getting new lights in February.
- Rod is concerned that the chimney is pulling away from the building more than before. Highway may take a look at it. Robyn requested to know when it's happening to see in the wall, and hopes that the wall behind doesn't need work when removed.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Report: Becky will work on the report and share with group. Robyn will provide information about the One-Stop and the upcoming project to explain the process and use of funds to the community.

Annual Budget: Becky has/will submit the Historical Commission budget to the Finance Committee as level funded from last year for FY2024.

Key: Town Hall needs the key back from Ann. However, she is still using it on a regular basis and has difficulty getting it with Town Hall hours.

MOTION: To allow Ann Chrabaszcz to make and keep a copy of the Old Town Hall key and submit for reimbursement. Motion made by Smith, seconded by Kincaid. All in favor. Motion Passed.

Public Comment/ Request for building/studio use: JoAnne Higgins came to the meeting to request use of the Cable Access Studio once per month on Saturdays from 10am-12pm starting in February or March for music. Rod can film and record the group if desired. JoAnne offered to have someone "sit guard" as the museum would not be open at that time, but the building would be open.

MOTION: To accept JoAnne's proposal for the music group and someone to watch the museum, to be coordinated with Rod. Motion made by Smith, seconded by Kincaid. All in favor. Motion Passed.

Public Comment/ OTH info: Mike Milanese is interested in the grant we received, and offered feedback on eliminating the knob and tube in the existing building, connecting to 5 Main Street's septic system that is still underground in the rear of the property, and insulating the basement.

Donations: Lynn Greene has donated a Bicentennial ash-tray and a Wales coffee mug to the permanent collection. Ann found a quilt and historic framed images in the senior center that were in storage and are now moved to OTH for the collection. Ann was also contacted by another resident who may have items to permanently donate. Mike Milanese has 2 bottles that he would be willing to loan on museum opening days.

Next Meeting: None scheduled.

MOTION: To adjourn made at 11:44M. Motion made by Chrabaszcz, seconded by Smith. All in favor, Motion Passed.

Attachments/ Handouts: None.

DATE APPROVED: April 1, 2023