

Wales Historical Commission
Wales, Massachusetts 01081

Meeting Minutes

Date: Saturday, April 1, 2023

Time: 10:00 AM

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

Present: Robyn Chrabasz, Rod Kincaid, Carolyn Boehne, Lynn Greene.

Members Absent: Rebecca (Becky) Smith.

Public: Ann Chrabasz, Ella Gregory, Ted Wysacki

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

Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes from 1/14/2023. Motion made by Chrabasz, seconded by Greene. All in favor. Motion Passed.

Correspondence: None.

Opening museum for events: Old Home Day (OHD) has been moved to August 5th. Carolyn noted she will be out of town for OHD. Group set the following dates for openings in 2023: May 29, June 24, July 15, August 5, September 9, October 21, and November 11. Memorial Day and Veteran's Day will be in conjunction with the veterans.

Funding opportunities:

Cultural Council 2022: Rod has ordered another quilt rack that will hopefully be here in May. This grant likely closes June 30, 2023 and Becky will have to closeout.

Cultural Council 2023: Rod in progress with Upside Down digitizing, targeting to complete for OHD especially if any Tantasqua volunteers can help.

Cultural Council 2024: Group will need ideas for 2024 request – it will be a no OHD year. Possible topics discussed are: (1) the “Wonder” and (2) Preparing for America’s 250 in 2026 – and anything that can be completed in 2024 and reused in 2026.

One-Stop/ Feasibility Study Project: Robyn has been working with KP Law and Pam to finalize and publish the RFQ – which will go out on April 12. The first quarterly report is also due. Group will be getting RFQs to score after May 3 due date, and May 13 and May 20 will need to have next meetings and interviews.

New member and reorganization, upcoming reappointments: Carolyn’s term was renewed. Reorganization at next meeting with full attendance – including appointment of a Vice-Chair to take the lead in the Chair’s absence as that was an issue today.

OTH:

- Front door – no update
- The town will be installing a security system at OTH, no cameras.
- Rod working with Tantasqua electrical.
- Call of the Wild was unable to catch anything in the building that may have entered through the digging along the rear foundation.
- The pipes froze in the bathroom this winter. Staff addressed the issue.
- The Board of Selectmen may be providing a street sign that group discussed labeling building as “Wales Old Town Hall / Union Meetinghouse Est. 1802,” depending on sign layout.
- Other open possibilities are replacing the side door and awning, or having someone like F&N look at the door to make it close properly; and painting of the ramp.

Annual Report: Becky to share.

Annual Budget: Becky to share. Selectman Valanzola may be submitting an earmark request to the state FY24 budget for OTH.

NEW BUSINESS

21 Union Road: Ann has done research for George Ferraro on his property per his curiosity and will provide a packet to the WHC files at the library.

Cleanup: Ann has organized the cabinet next to the safe. Rod will provide Iron Mountain boxes for items that need to be stored.

Public Comment/ Four Corners: Ted Wysocki has been speaking with Brian Phelps (local historian/author) about the history of the Four Corners area and a possible district – or a way to protect the foundations, paths, and other history of that area of town. Noted were the following: Native American inhabitants, South Meadow Farms, old highway maps of the Worcester/Stafford Turnpike, tollbooth across from Old County Road, brickyard, water wheel on Stevens brook, Barney Road was a stagecoach road, hotel, blacksmith, weigh station, Munger’s meadows with Munger cellar and well, schoolhouse on Union Road (do we still own it?).

The group discussed not having a full attendance to really be able to address this subject, and possible capacity to work on the research and investigation of the possibility of a district or any proper way to record these items so that they are not completely lost in time. Robyn requested that since Ted has already spoken to Lynn, that he update her as a point of contact for any additional significant finds and the group tabled this topic for a future meeting.

Next Meeting: May 13 and May 20 for RFQ and interviews.

MOTION: To adjourn made at 12:04PM. Motion made by Chrabaszcz, seconded by Greene. All in favor, Motion Passed.

Attachments/ Handouts: None.

DATE APPROVED: May 13, 2023