

Wales Historical Commission
Wales, Massachusetts 01081

Meeting Minutes

Date: Saturday, September 9, 2023

Time: 10:00AM

Location: 3 Main Street, Old Town Hall First Floor

Present: Rod Kincaid, Robyn Chrabasz, Lynn Greene.

Members Absent: Rebecca (Becky) Smith, Carolyn Boehne.

Public: Ella Gregory

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

Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes from 5/26/2023. Motion made by Chrabasz, seconded by Kincaid. 3-0-0. Motion Passed.

MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes from 7/15/2023. Motion made by Chrabasz, seconded by Kincaid. 2-0-1, Greene abstained. Motion Passed.

Correspondence: None.

Building Updates: Front door is complete and able to be opened for museum openings – Rod will check with Peter about installing a hold-open. Rod will be putting out mouse traps again. No information was known about the town installation of cameras or alarms for the building. No information was known about the sign being installed. Rod has asked to be present when the Spencer Group comes through the Cable Studio. Lynn will also make a sign in sheet for the building.

Collection Updates: Lynn and Al are actively completing more scanning and sorting and are ready to bring items back to museum. They are also working on getting scans onto a hard drive. The group discussed archiving options but will need to revisit the topic with full commission, including how to secure digital collections and possible grants.

MOTION: To provide Lynn Greene a building key (copy) for her active work on collections. Motion made by Kincaid, seconded by Chrabasz, 3-0-0. Motion Passed.

Cultural Council: Rod is finding equipment, so conversions of Upside Down show is still open.

Cemetery Walk: The walk may be a repeat of last year – Ann Chrabasz has been pre-occupied and delayed on new name research. Tentatively, Ann King and George Ferraro have offered to assist.

Feasibility Project: The Board of Selectmen approved and signed the contract with Spencer Preservation Group. Robyn met with them on 9/1 to kick-off the project and more updates will be shared as they come in, including possible meetings needed. They will need access to the studio when they return. Kickoff was

a walk-through of the building and general discussions, similar to the interview. They are also working on getting a surveyor with wetlands flagging for 3 and 5 Main Street.

NEW BUSINESS

FY24 State Budget Line Item: If the Governor signs the budget as is, Wales will receive \$50,000 towards the preservation of Old Town Hall to be used by June 30, 2024. Rod will watch for these notices, but none will likely come to Town based on his experiences.

DOT: Rod shared that MassDOT emailed the town regarding a sidewalk starting this fall. Commissioners are concerned about the work in front of Old Town Hall and impacts to the wall. Robyn will forward DOT emails with the project that happened through the Master Plan Implementation Committee (MPIC). Robyn noted all future agendas need to include an update to the Commission on MPIC business if it pertains to Old Town Hall or other areas of Historical relevance.

Lynn shared that she will be attending a virtual training by Massachusetts Historical Commission on October 10th about completing MHC inventory forms.

Next meeting will be Saturday, October 21, 2023 at 10AM with museum opening. Veteran's Day opening needs to be confirmed.

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

DATE APPROVED: October 21, 2023