

Members Present: Ken Warchol, Paula McCowan, Lenny Smith,
Wendy Timmons

Members Absent: Dan O'Neill, Mary Barlow, Karen Talley

Meeting called order at 7pm

Minutes from previous meeting not presented, secretary, Dan O'Neill absent.

First order of business:

The Historical Society, Carol Brower, would like to apply for a grant for repairs needed for the historical Fletcher House located at 1 Elm Place, Whitinsville, MA. These repairs include mold mediation, interior wall and exterior repairs and painting. The maximum allowable amount of such grant would not exceed \$150,000 depending on the availability of matching funds. This particular grant would not include a major structure repair fore the matching funds would not sustain. Amongst discussion, the funds for the matching grant will have to addressed through The Historical Society. A motion was made to allow The Historical Society to move forward on applying for the grant by Lenny Smith, second it, Paula McCowan, decision unanimous.

National Parks Updates:

Throughout the process of Whitinsville becoming part of the National Park Corridor, a meeting with the Superintendant of Parks, Megan Kish, took place in January at the Linwood Mill. She talked about a partnership between the towns and the parks and how each town has been asked to come up with ideas of what to do for tourist. The Whitinsville Trolley Tours are already available. The Parks Commission would like to schedule a Trolley Tour for local Social Studies/History Teachers to expand further knowledge and participation for future tours. The Corridor Commission (BVEC) has available funds to sponsor such events. They were estimating about 2 teachers per school and the National Park Service would then in conjunction with the Trolley Tours, add other educational activities to broaden the tourist participation. However, the National Parks do not want to encroach upon any existing programs. They are currently generating a budget plan and would like an array of groups to put forth their ideas for expanding the tourist industry.

In addition, The Parks Department needs a building for their offices and meetings. They will be investigating available sites within the Blackstone Heritage Corridor. They are open for suggestions.

Each town within the National Parks Tourist points (5 towns) is required to have District Boundaries to receive additional funding. A previous original proposal done by the Northbridge Historical Commission is being brought forth. It included approximately 12 structures to include but not exception to, the Town Hall, Whitin Machine Works, Fletcher House, Whitinsville Community Center, Library, Bank Building, Aldrich School, LaSalle Mansion, Cotton Mill Building, Congregational Church, & Carr Funeral Home. This Historic district is necessary to be part of any available funds through the Parks Department. It will place deed restrictions upon the buildings specified, however, the town owned buildings already follow similar guidelines. The privately owned structures would also have to follow certain guidelines yet to be determined.

The Northbridge Historical Commission was asked to vote on either to keep the original proposed district boundaries or to expand the perimeter to include other historical structures. With the expansion of the district it would include more privately owned structures. There are concerns that certain property should be included. Jack Crawford had communicated to Ken Warchol that he is concerned about the fate of the historical Castle Hill.

It was recommended to move forward with the smaller district because it may pass the vote easier when it is put in an article before the town. A motion to move forward on the existing Historical District plan by Lenny Smith, second, Paula McCowan, decision unanimous. Ken Warchol is preparing a letter and all information to be presented before the town.

The Parks Corridor Commission as funds available for each projected district. These funds are between \$5,000 and \$15,000, with a total of \$4,000 to \$5,000 on average per year. It includes, but not limited to, preservation of architecture, river recovery and any educational items. These funds are also contributions from various individuals and corporations. Peter Bedigian, owner of OMNI, brought together corporations to fund for Park Memberships at \$2,500. per member. This and other fund raising is necessary as to keep our town to move forward into the tourist industry.

Ken Warchol reviewed Northbridge Historical Commission estimated funds:

Yearly budget:	\$500.00.....	\$40.00 remains
Preservation fund:	\$2,292.23.....	\$2,100 slated for Northbridge sign, Sutton St.
Gift Fund:	\$347.00	

Would like to plan Trolley Tours for May 21st. Wendy Timmons will contact the trolley company and Alternatives to make arrangements for this date. There will be 4 tours available. The trolley reservation list must be kept centralized to avoid overbooking.

The members were requested to venture out to local companies for donations. Their companies will be listed on the flyers and any advertizing.

The completion of the Town Hall's upper Grand Hall is next on the budget agenda. The budget is estimated to be, but not limited to, the following figures:

Ceiling Plaster/forms.....	\$45,000.00
Wall repairs.....	\$15,000.00
Paint.....	\$33,400.00
Floors.....	\$19,000.00
Lighting/electric.....	\$67,500.00
Approx. Total.....	\$158,601.00

If extras are added; Paint analysis and architect services, could reach upwards of \$225,000.00. A separate amount of \$85,580 was added for the restoration of the Selectman's room. All the correct financial estimates are with the preservation bids.

A vote was taken to have the Town Meeting Article apply for a matching grant with a maximum of \$320,000.00 or to "piece meal" the grant to only \$225,000.00 omitting extras. A motion was made by Lenny Smith to just allow the \$225,000.00 estimate and leave the remainder extras out for now, second, Wendy Timmons, decision unanimous.

Kenny Warchol reviewed the Sexual Harassment Policy to all members.

Meeting Adjourned 8:50pm
Minutes by Wendy Timmons