

Historical Commission minutes 3/12/18

Meeting called to order at 7:07PM

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In attendance: Ken Wor1chal(chair), Dan O'Neill, Wendy Timmons.

NORTHBRIDGE TOWN CLERK
DOREEN A. CEDRONE

Already consulted on original mtg day and votes registered: Lenny Smith.

Item 1: Nomination of Preservation project at Northbridge Town Hall for state award.

Commission members present voted 3-0 in favor, and then were told by the chair that L Smith voted by proxy in favor as well...Commission voted 4-0 to send letter nominating the project.

Item 2: Commission asked to vote whether to keep the deed restrictions on property like the Whitin-Lasalle manor under local control, or have it go to the state government.

Commission voted 4-0 in favor of keeping the control local.

Item 3: Commission asked to vote whether to approve demolishing a derelict cottage on town land.

Building has no historical value.

Commission voted 4-0 to demolish.

Commission then considered whether to pursue funding for replacement of 3 signs in town that tell public that the buildings have historic value.

The one at the Aldrich building is worn out. Wendy T will get a cost estimate.

The Riverdale Village sign near the river itself is worn out. Wendy T will look into getting a cost estimate for this one as well

The Rochdale Common sign is also worn out. Wendy T said it's replacement exists, partially finished, and she will pursue getting it finished. Commission will wait until our next mtg to take any further action.

Commission Members were informed that they need to submit evidence that they have completed the annual ethics training for town employees by April 1st. Dan O is a state employee, and will submit the proof that he took the training this year through them.

The commission then discussed participation and recruiting participants for the Historic District Committee which is re-forming. Dan O will join, as will other members. All will look into recruiting people from the community.

The commission then was informed by the chair that the current Preservation Funds account has \$1,620 in it and our own commission annual budget of \$500 is also available.

The group then discussed the upcoming Trolley Tours event, now scheduled for 6/23/18...the first summertime date for it since the tours re-started a few years ago. There will be 3 tours this year. Unibank has already contributed \$500 toward the costs of the event and another donation of \$500 has been received from Omni. Concerned citizens have contributed \$300 so far. The commission discussed a strategy to get the number of no-shows down through calling people who signed up 2 days before the

event to see if still interested. Two members of the group (Dan O and Wendy T) volunteered to stand at the trolley stop after each tour holding a basket for any contributions the riders would like to make to the event. As usual, there will be no charge for the trolley tickets. Wendy also volunteered her teen children to do same instead of members. The group discussed the itinerary of the tours, with the idea of perhaps adding the canal stop on Church St extension and dropping the Linwood coverage. All agreed that Linwood is too important in town history to leave out, and that we thought a longer tour event in the future would be the time to do a canal stop.

As the last item concerning the Trolley tours, the Commission voted 4-0 (again with Lenny Smith's vote pre-registered by the chair, and not disclosed until the present members have voted) to set 6/23/18 as the official date of the tours.

Next on the agenda was an update on the people holding the Town Manager positions in Uxbridge and Northbridge. Both have new incumbents in the last 4 months. Wendy and others on the commission will reach out to these two, and others in the municipal families of both towns for Trolley Tour participants.

The members then discussed organizing a walking tour of the Blackstone River Canal starting at Plummers Landing. This is tentatively scheduled for midsummer. Also brought up was the idea of funding a sign to be placed there explaining the importance of the Canal in the town's history during its heyday of 1828-1848.

The next meeting of the Historical Commission is scheduled for Monday April 23rd at 7PM at the Fletcher House,