



Westfield Historical Commission

Minutes for June 20, 2016

Westfield City Hall / Room 201

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WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

Present: Kate Deviny, Carly Bannish, Cindy Gaylord, Walt Fogg, Danny Nasom

Public participation:

- Ed Philips: As a member of the Pioneer Valley Military and Transportation Museum, he would like the WHC to declare Hangar #1 at Barnes Airport a historical site. Kate Deviny requested that Mr. Philips visit her at the Westfield Athenaeum where she will assist him in locating historical documents to move this request forward. The WHC would also like to make a visit to the hangar and take photos.
- Quentin Sizer: Mr. Sizer is interested in the Professional Building that burned in January of 1952. During this fire, his father saved one of two monuments that adorned the façade of the building. Walt Fogg expressed his interest in this piece and mentioned that he would love to see it relocated to the lobby of the new building that will eventually stand on the footprint of the Professional Building and the Gowdy Block in the Gaslight District. Mr. Sizer he would consider this possibility. The WHC will let Mark Cressotti know about this potential opportunity.
- Quentin Sizer: Mr. Sizer also brought forth his desire to have the Little Cobblestone House at 17 Bartlett Street be put on the National Historic Register and the Massachusetts Historic Register. It is already on the Westfield Historic Register. Ralph Lucius Dewey built it around 1838 and it is made out of water-washed from the Westfield River. The WHC will look into this possibility.

Secretary's Report:

Kate moved to accept the secretary's report.

Danny seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mailings:

- We received a check from Westfield Bank for \$2500.00 for work on the Old School House project.

Old Business:

- Bullens Field Update: Walt contacted Dave Bush at the WTA to construct the frame to hold the historical sign. This was completed and Walt purchased plexiglass

to cover it. The bronze plaque will be installed on the side of the concrete bleachers. The original wooden sign will be installed on the concession stand.

- OBG Update: Twenty-five fifth graders from Cindy's class at Munger Hill School portrayed residents of the OBG on June 11th. The Open Gate Day was very successful as many community members visited and left donations for the restoration of the OBG. The WHC is most grateful to these young people for their time and support.
- Historic List Update: Tabled.
- Upkeep Schedule for City Cemeteries: The WHC will talk to the Park and Recreation Department regarding the upkeep of the city's cemeteries. We would like to know what upkeep they are responsible for and what we can do to help preserve these old cemeteries. (They are the OBG on Mechanic Street, East Mountain Road, Middle Farms, and Mundale.)
- One Room School House Project: Walt presented a program to the third graders at Munger Hill School. They were inspired to create models of the one room school houses in Westfield and then plotted their locations on a map of Westfield.

New Business:

- Wyben School House: Teachers from Munger Hill are interested in volunteering to help there. Walt suggested that perhaps Munger Hill School could adopt the school house and students could plant flowers and volunteer around the property. The WHC might be able to pay for buses for the students and teachers to visit the school house.
- OBG Gate: Danny presented the quote from Blue Ribbon Welding to make structural repairs to the hinges and latching system. The quote is for \$1200.00. Carly moved to accept BRW's quote. Kate seconded the motion. The motion passed. We hope to move to the decorative restoration in the next phase of the gate repair. Danny will let BRW know to move forward with the repair work.
- Yellowstone House: Tabled.
- Presentation Award: Tabled.

Walt moved to adjourn. Kate seconded the motion. Motion passed. We adjourned at 8:45 PM. Our next meeting is Monday, August 15, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly Bannish, Secretary