



Westfield Historical Commission

Minutes for August 22, 2016

Westfield City Hall / Room 202E

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WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

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

Public participation:

- Jeff Penn: Was looking for advice on how to proceed with the restoration of the Bismark Hotel and Buschmann Building in terms of funding. The WHC advised him to apply for two separate grants, one for each building, and to break each down into prioritized phases over time.
- Amber Danahey (Community Outreach Coordinator): Is looking to create a steering committee for the City of Westfield's 350th Celebration. There is a budget of \$50,000 to start. Carly will send her the names and addresses of commissioners willing to serve on the steering committee or help in other ways.
- Bruce Cortis: Has volunteered to digitize the Dunbar photos donated by Leo Murray from Hancock, Maryland. He will create captions for the photos and then will bring in the final project to the WHC. We are most grateful for his time and effort regarding this project. He also brought to our attention a box of photos the Engineering Department showed him and would like digitized. Bruce will donate his time and do the scanning for this project as well. Kate will contact Mark Cressotti regarding these photos.

Secretary's Report:

Amanda moved to accept the secretary's report.

Kate seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mailings:

- Demolition and Blyht Removal, 340 Elm Street: We agree in having this project go through.
- Photographic Documentation, Multi-Modal Transportation Center, Elm Street Renewal Plan: Copies of the photos will be given to the WHC.
- The Nolumbeka Project, Inc.: Dedicated to the preservation of the Native American legacy in New England. Cindy will call to see what they are all about.

Old Business:

- **Schoolhouse Markers:** Walt will send a letter from the WHC to Ronald Schortmann suggesting that we will get the stone and plaque to commemorate the schoolhouse if he is still willing to pay for it as previously discussed with his architect.
- **General Shepard Homestead Marker:** We would like to erect a pole and brass sign to mark his home location on the corner of Allen Street and Franklin Street. Cindy will contact the mayor's office to see if we can get permission to put up the marker. Walt will get a quote for the sign.
- **Historic Markers:** Cindy will contact Marl Cressotti to join us at the next WHC meeting to discuss the markers in town.
- **Moseley School Conversion:** Ann Lentini is moving forward with this project as was reported to the CPC.
- **Atwater Mansion:** Father Dan and Andrea York will give WHC commissioners a tour of the mansion on August 23rd.
- **Taylor Table Top Stones:** Cindy will get quotes to replace these stones.
- **Wyben Schoolhouse Update:** The stove is ready to be picked up once The Good Time Stove Company receives our payment which is pending in City Hall. The original bid was for \$2850.00 but an additional \$800.00 was necessary to replating the nickel plating and for repairs to the top of the stove that were discovered during the restoration process. We have \$2425.00 left to pay.
- **OBG Gate:** We have received a contract from Blue Ribbon Welding. Kate moved to use funds to pay for the work. Walt seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- **Wyben Schoolhouse:** We still have \$7405.00 of CPC grant money left. The CPC visited the building on August 9, 2016. Walt has suggested we use the money to restore the front entry way of the building, the woodshed, and the clapboards.

New Business:

- **Preservation Award:** Applications must be in by October 1, 2016. Please encourage people to apply.
- **Ghost Tours (September 30th and October 1st):** Amanda will update the survey. Cindy has contacted the G&E to secure the generators, Park and Recreation for the usage form, newspapers for articles, St. Mary's to secure parking, and called to have the OBG mowed. Cindy and Carly created the tickets and had them printed. Walt will contact Pignatare Farm for donations of hay bales, pumpkins, and corn stalks. Cindy will call for a port-a-potty. Commissioners should email Carly their available days and times for volunteering at the Ghost Tour. Rain date October 2nd.

- Library Talk: Cindy and Carly presented a WHC update to the public at a presentation at the Athenaeum. Participants then joined them for a guided tour of the Whipping Around Westfield Walking and Biking Tour app.
- Safety/Information Note for the OBG: Kate will update a form used at the Athenaeum when people check out the OBG key at the reference desk. It will state the need for cautiousness when touring the OBG, specifically regarding the fragile nature of the stones.
- CPC Meeting Update: Cindy gave an update on the hanger project at Barnes Airport.

Amanda moved to adjourn. Kate seconded the motion. Motion passed. We adjourned at 9:30 PM. Our next meeting is Monday, September 26, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly Bannish, Secretary

