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Westfield Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes- January 23, 2023 in person

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WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

Attendees: Cindy Gaylord (Chairperson), Carly Bannish (Treasurer), Crystal Hollister (Secretary), Cindy Bronson, Kathi Palmer, Nick Aieta.

Absences: Mike Ingraham

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Participation: Dan Call, Wade Brunelle, and Ted Gage came to speak on behalf of the American Legion. The building needs repairs and restoration and they are seeking CPC funds. This building was constructed in 1869, as part of the Ives block. In 1909 the town purchased the building to use as a boy's trade school. In 1919 the Women's Club used the building as a museum, and in 1920 the American Legion leased the building. Commissioner Palmer made a motion to recommend that the American Legion building be of historic value to the City of Westfield, it was seconded by Commissioner Aieta and passed unanimously.

Secretary's report: A motion was made by Commissioner Palmer and seconded by Commissioner Bronson to accept the report, motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Historical Gift account is now at \$9759.99 due to another donation. The General Fund still at \$3451.00.

Mail: None.

Unfinished Business:

1. Lecture Series: "Here Lies Interred" by the McKees was well recieved, with approximately 92 people in attendance. Our next lecture will be by Bob Brown on the topic "Place Names", held at the First Congregational Church, 6:30-7:30pm, March 15th. Commissioner Bannish will add the event to the City Calendar, and Commissioner Hollister will add it to the Facebook pages, Commissioner Gaylord will call the newspaper. Volunteers will be needed to man both doors, from 6-7:30 (lecture will run from 6:30-7:30). There will be a \$200 fee to use the church (to pay for the custodian and heat), so a table will be set up for donations. Possible topic for future lectures: Bruce Cortis- Westfield Whips, Walter Powell- Reverend Taylor, Westifield and the Civil War.
2. Old Burying Ground Historic "Ghost" Tour: Tentative date October 13th/14th, starting at 5:30 since it will be colder and the later tours are not as popular. Waiting to hear if Jay Pagluica will be available for the lighting.
3. General Sheppard furniture donation update: the Athenaeum accepted most of the furniture, except one small table that was determined to be too contemporary. This item went back to the family.
4. Old Burying Ground Gate Repair: Commissioner Gaylord will reach out to Amy to find out if the money from the GoFundMe must be donated to the City or if the funds can go directly to

Campbell-Brodeur. Campbell-Brodeur will be installing a temporary fence as the one the City has installed has fallen down several times.

5. CPC Upcoming items: Pinehill will be reapplying for funds to rebuild the stone archway. The Shibley's of Pilgrim Candle Co are seeking to refurbish the elevator to expand businesses on the upper levels of the building.

New Business

1. Donations from the Elks- a banner and sewing kit for WWII will go to the Athenaeum.
2. Historical Preservation Award- possible candidates, Bob Brown or Dennis Piccard. Commissioner Gaylord made a motion for the award to go to Bob Brown this year, seconded by Commissioner Bannish, motion carried.
3. Commissioner Palmer presented a Mystery Dinner presentation. This item was tabled until we can read through all the materials.
4. Bruce Cortis is refreshing the inventory. He is also working on another project: Known deaths, unknown graves.

Next meetings: February 20th (will need to be rescheduled due to President's Day), March 20th, April 17 (this meeting will need to be rescheduled due to Patriots Day), May 15th, June 19 (this meeting will need to be rescheduled due to Juneteenth)

Adjourn: At 8:07pm Commissioner Palmer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Bannish seconded, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Crystal Hollister, WHC Commissioner