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WESTFIELD CITY CLERK



Westfield Historical Commission Meeting  
January 28, 2019 Minutes

Councilors Cindy Gaylord, Carly Bannish, Debbie Oppermann, Cindy Bronson, and Amanda Goodheart Parks present. Councilor Ellen McEwan absent.

Commissioner Gaylord called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**Public Participation:**

Norman Smith of Westfield shared news about the upcoming demolition of the dam at the Tekoa Reservoir in Montgomery this summer. Mr. Smith shared a document with the WHC detailing the history of the dam, asked for advice about next steps, and requested a letter of support from WHC to stop the demolition. According to Mr. Smith, the dam is of historic significance as it was built in 1874 under the direction of Chauncey D. Allen of Westfield. Councilor Gaylord will touch base with local experts to acquire additional information about the historic nature of the dam.

**Secretary's Report:**

Councilor Goodheart Parks submitted minutes from November 2018 and December 2018. Councilor Oppermann made a motion to accept both sets of minutes, Councilor Bannish seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report**

Councilor Bannish, Treasurer reported the following balances:  
General Fund: \$3,329.00.  
Historical Gift Account: \$15,009.42.  
G/L Account: No report given from City Auditor this month.

Councilor Bannish reported the current financial reports received by her from the City Auditor's office are confusing. She will be requesting more itemized reports in the future.

**Mail**

WHC received a bill from Rick's Port-a-Potty due to unpaid bills/late fees, despite the bill being paid on December 21, 2018. Councilor Bannish will follow up with the City Auditor.

WHC received an Invitation from the Stanley Park gala.

WHC received a letter from Will Kuchta in Victor, NY. He grew up in Westfield and found some historic photographs from the 300th celebrations at his parents' home. He included the photographs in his letter. Councilor Bannish will send Mr. Kuchta a thank you note.

## **Unfinished Business**

350th Committee Update: Speaker series continue to be hugely successful, with 300-400 people in attendance per lecture. All lectures have been moved to First Church or Westfield State University due to high attendance. Councilor Gaylord shared that over \$4,000 in merchandise has been sold by the 350th Committee at the lectures. Time capsule and historic tree plaque projects are continuing, 700 trees will be planted as part of the celebrations. Geocaching and a city hall mural/etching are also in process.

First Night Update: First Night drew crowd of 3,000-4,000 attendees even despite the rain.

Sign for Old Burying Ground gate: Councilor Bannish will inquire with former Councilor Deviny as to her research/notes on this project and report back to the commission at the next meeting.

## **New Business:**

### **New Commissioner Suggestions:**

Councilor Gaylord brought up a very enthusiastic potential candidate who, despite being employed in Westfield is not a resident, and therefore probably won't be able to take the position. Councilor Bronson shared a potential candidate who has expressed interest. Councilor Gaylord expressed that this candidate should attend the next meeting.

Float for Parade: A flatbed truck and heated warehouse was donated for the use of the 350th Historic and Education Committees. Councilor Gaylord requested assistance in building this float.

May 18-19, 2019 350th Activities: Councilor Gaylord shared that Fort Ticonderoga will be participating in the parade with cannon and oxen. They will also be doing historic presentations to all students in Grades 5 and 6 before their departure. City Councilor Cindy Harris who attended the meeting as a member of the public recommend that Councilor Gaylord inquire with Legal Department regarding potential insurance issues with the oxen appearance.

Historic Pamphlet for 350th: Councilor Gaylord would like an updated pamphlet for distribution in time for the 350th. Councilor Oppermann volunteered to look into this project.

350th Books: Councilor Gaylord presented copies of the Westfield 350th book to former Councilors Deviny and Fogg as thank you gifts for their service. One thousand copies of the book have been sold.

Supplies: Councilor Gaylord shared the cost of supplies for the upcoming Old Burying Ground including D2 stone cleaner. Councilor Bannish made a motion to purchase these needed supplies, Councilor Bronson seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Councilor Gaylord recommended WHC consider purchasing additional items using our account, including signage at the Old Burying Ground.

## **Additional Items of Discussion:**

Councilor Gaylord shared that Councilor Bronson and Councilor McEwan's terms have expired. Councilor Bronson stated she will contact the Mayor's Office to start the reappointment process.

Councilor Bronson brought up the beam section was requested from the Fenton Leasing building demolition. She will inquire further in past minutes, as no one could recall having recieved notice of this request having been completed.

Councilor Gaylord shared news that Mr. Tierney, owner of the Landlord Fowler Tavern, is continuing to move forward with his historically accurate repair work of the reproduction tavern door.

Councilor Bannish made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Goodheart Parks seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: February 25, 2019, March 18, 2019, April 22, 2019

Respectfully submitted,  
Amanda Goodheart Parks, Ph.D.  
Secretary



