

Westfield Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes- March 20, 2023 in person

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

Absences: Nick Aieta

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

Public Participation:

1. Paul Fontaine donated seven programs from the Westfield Academy of Music to the Commission. These programs ranged from the year 1925-1930 and will be gifted to the Athenaeum to go into their climate controlled archives.
2. Dan Call came to speak, thanking us for the letter of support for the American Legion to move forward in seeking CPC funds to repair the building.

Secretary's report: A motion was made by Commissioner Bronson and seconded by Commissioner Ingraham to accept the minutes from the January report, motion carried. (No meeting in February due to meeting date change and lack of quorum.)

Treasurer's report: Historical Gift account is now at \$461.97 due to \$9500 encumbered for the Old Burying Ground gate work. The GoFundMe monies (\$2415.00) were delivered March 2nd, however they have not yet been deposited into the Historical Commission's account. The General Fund now at \$2288.5.00 due to stipends.

Mail: None.

Unfinished Business:

1. The Historical Preservation Award presentation to Bob Brown will be tentatively set at the Mayor's office on April 11th at 3:30. Commissioner Gaylord will reach out to Commissioners once this is confirmed.
2. OBG Gate update: Hoping to be completed in spring. We are just waiting until funding is secured.
3. Lecture Series: Walter Powell came to speak about Dr. Thomas J. Abernethy at the First Congregational Church, 6:30-7:30pm on March 15th. Prior to the lecture, Dr. Powell also volunteered to come speak to a group of Wright Flight (aviation) students at Middle School as their library is dedicated to Abernethy. Commissioner Hollister also arranged for a brief re-dedication ceremony, donating a plaque and photo of Abernethy to be displayed in the WMS library.
4. Demolition Delay: This ordinance has officially (and unanimously) been extended from 30 days to 90 days per the City Council. City Hall is supposed to reach out to the Historical Commission if they receive a demolition request. Councilors also brought it to the Historical Commission's attention that the language on our website is unclear, as it appears there are two separate lists of historical locations. A motion was made by Commissioner Bannish and seconded by

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Commissioner Palmer to rename all lists of historical buildings to read "The Westfield Historical Commission's Register of Historical Places". Motion passed unanimously. To be added to the historical register, property owners must use Massachusetts Historical Commission Form B-Building. Betty and Larry Fulhaver from Hawthorne St. have requested to be added.

New Business

1. Mystery Dinner: Commissioner Palmer presented additional information regarding a Mystery Dinner to replace the Old Burying Ground Tour this year as there were too many scheduling conflicts. Since this event will be indoors it can be held later in the fall than the OBG tours (otherwise it can be too cold to tour outside). It was recommended that we use the First Congregational Church or Women's Club Theater, and to simplify, it was recommended that we serve appetizers, or coffee and desserts instead of a full meal. No date has been set yet, likely the event will be after the October 13th-14th weekend. Commissioner Gaylord will reach out to Jay Pagliuca regarding his availability for lighting.
2. WHC meeting conflicts: WHC now has five months that require alternate dates due to Monday holidays, which can often result in lack of a quorum. Commissioner Palmer made a motion that we meet the 4th Monday at 6pm instead of the 3rd Monday at 7 pm. Commissioner Bannish seconded, motion carried. Commissioner Gaylord will verify if that date is available.
3. OBG Gate Repair Funding: The CPC will be meeting on April 13th at 6:30 to review the WHC's request for funding to repair the gate. Commissioners should try to attend in support of this project.
4. Spring Cleanup: Tentative date has been set for June 3rd at 11:00.

Next meetings: Note the time and date changes are based on the 4th Monday of the month (pending room availability) 6:00 pm April 24th, May 22nd, June 26th.

Adjourn: At 8:05pm Commissioner Palmer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Ingraham seconded, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Crystal Hollister, WHC Commissioner