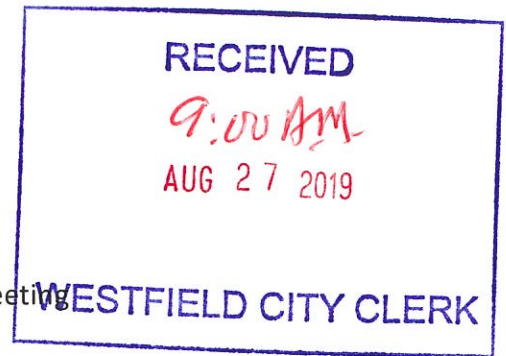


Westfield Historical Commission Meeting
August 26, 2019 Minutes



Commissioners Cindy Gaylord, Carly Bannish, Cindy Bronson, and Amanda Goodheart Parks present. Commissioners Oppermann and McEwan absent. Commissioner Gaylord called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Public Participation:

Michael Ingraham of Southamptton, MA attended the meeting as a member of the public. His status as a Commissioner is still pending a meeting with the PAC.

Daniel Call of Westfield, a member of American Legion Post 124, asked the Historical Commission to review a plan for preventative maintenance on Post 124's building at 38 Broad Street in Westfield. The property dates to 1870 and is listed on the Westfield Historical Commission's list of Properties of Historical Significance. Proposed changes include repointing the chimney, repairing wooden roof corners, and adding fresh exterior paint. Mr. Call requested a letter of support from the Commission to share with fellow Legion members. Commissioner Goodheart Parks volunteered to write the letter on behalf of the Commission and send it to Mr. Call within the next few days.

Commissioner Gaylord inquired if the Legion planned to seek CPC funding for this project. Mr. Call discuss the idea with his fellow members. Commissioner Goodheart Parks applauded Mr. Call for his stewardship of this historic property.

Secretary's Report:

Commissioner Goodheart Parks, Secretary submitted minutes from the June 2019 Meeting. Commissioner Bannish made a motion to accept the secretary's report pending one minor correction. Commissioner Bronson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Commissioner Bannish, Treasurer reported the following balances:

General Fund: \$1,034.00

Historical Gift Account: \$15,512.55

G/L Account: No report given from City Auditor this month.

Commissioner Bannish reported the city has a new Auditor named Chris Caputo. Commissioner Bannish will be scheduling a meeting with Mr. Caputo in the coming weeks. Commissioner Gaylord reported the city's 2020 Budget has been approved. There was no increase or decrease in funds allotted to the Historical Commission.

Mail:

Carol Roach of Melbourne, FL, wife of Raymond Roach, donated two historic pamphlets from the 1930s to the Commission. Commissioner Bannish will write a thank you note.

Commissioner Gaylord reported on a donation of historic newspapers from the Westfield Evening News to the Commission. None of the papers have a connection to Westfield history. Mr. Ingraham will speak to colleagues at Westfield High School regarding their potential use by faculty and students.

Unfinished Business:

Sign for Old Burying Ground Gate:

The Old Burying Ground sign has been installed and paid for. This project is now complete.

Historic Pamphlet:

Tabled until next meeting due to Commission Oppermann's absence.

Old Burying Ground Cleanup Recap:

Commissioner Gaylord reported on the success of the recent cleanup with aid from several local Boy Scout groups.

Wyben School House Update:

Commissioners Gaylord and Bannish met with Tammy Teft, Director of Purchasing, in June to discuss the two potential buyers for the property as well as preservation restrictions. They also discussed the feasibility of moving the School House to a vacant property near the Whip Company.

Fowler Tavern Door:

Commissioner Gaylord reported the Tierneys will be traveling to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City to meet with museum curators and view the original Fowler Tavern door as part of their renovation efforts. Commissioner Gaylord thanked Commissioner Goodheart Parks for coordinating this visit.

New Business:

2019 Old Burying Ground Ghost Tours:

This year's Old Burying Ground Ghost Tours will be held on Friday September 27th and Saturday September 28th, 2019. Tours will run at 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30pm. Tickets are being printed and will be sold from the Westfield Athenaeum beginning on Tuesday September 3, 2019. Tickets will be \$10 per person, and the tours are not recommended for children under the age of 10. A Westfield Evening News story is forthcoming. A sign-up list for Commissioner volunteer shifts was passed around, and Commissioner Gaylord emphasized the importance of all Commissioners participating in these tours. The annual post-tour clean up will be held on Sunday September 29th, 2019 starting at 1:00pm.

Commissioner Goodheart Parks volunteered to coordinate parking with St. Mary's Church as well as decoration pick up and return to and from Pignatare's Farm. Both organizations will be given a pair of tickets as a thank you for their donation. Commissioner Gaylord will reach out to the Samaritan Inn to see if they wish to sell food or hot chocolate that night as a fundraiser. Commissioner Gaylord confirmed Jennifer McCabe has once again volunteered to decorate the front gate for both evenings. Commissioner Gaylord noted that additional help is needed to "shepherd" groups through the tours as well as assist at the front gate, especially on Saturday evening.

350th Lectures:

The 350th Education Committee will continue to offer public lectures on Wednesday evenings at First Church in Westfield in 2020. The plan is to offer 4-5 lectures next year on various topics relating to Westfield/Western Massachusetts history.

New Projects:

Commissioner Bannish proposed designing and installing new signage within the Old Burying Ground. Commissioner Gaylord recommended we divert funds from this year's Ghost Tours to the development and installation of such signs.

Mr. Ingraham suggested the installation of signage on historic properties throughout the city as part of a "museum on the streets." These signs would show historic photos of the buildings and provide some interpretation as to their former use for the public.

Westfield 350th Parade at Big Y:

The 350th Committee will be marching in a parade at the Big E at 5:00pm on Thursday September 26th.

New Commissioner Update:

Mike Ingraham of Southampton, MA is still awaiting his scheduled meeting with the PAC.

Commissioner Bronson made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Bannish seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: September 16, 2019; October 21, 2019, November 18, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Goodheart Parks, Ph.D., Secretary
Westfield Historical Commission