

NEWBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2013

Call to Order

A regular monthly meeting of the Newbury Historical Commission was held at the Newbury Town Library on Wednesday, October 16, 2013. The meeting convened at 6:37 PM.

Members present: Chris Drelich, Lon Hachmeister, Channing Howard, Sue Nagle, and Nancy Thurlow.
Members absent: Bill Towne.

Associate members present: Jan Forrest
Associate members absent: Eva Jackman

Approval of Minutes

1. The draft minutes of the 10/16/13 meeting were presented. A MOTION was made by Chris Drelich to accept the minutes as presented. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Correspondence

1. Nancy Thurlow was in touch with Dan Murray from NH who inquired about the Byfield Viking stones.

Reports

Treasurer's Report

As of November 13, 2013	<i>General Fund</i>	\$301.10
	<i>Gift Fund</i>	\$1,575.78
	<i>Special Article Fund</i>	<u>\$6,068.50</u>
	Total	\$7,945.38

Old Business

1. "Images from the Past" Books

We discussed a possible future reprint of *Images from the Past*, which was published in 1985 for the 350th Anniversary (see Meeting Minutes of 10/16/13, New Business #1 for context). Nancy is going to check to see if there are still copies of the book at (a) Jabberwocky Bookstore, Newburyport, (b) Town Clerk's Office, Newbury Town Hall, or (c) The Historical Society of Old Newbury, Newburyport.

2. 1970s Aerial Photos of Town

Sue got pricing from Zip Type for the scans of the aerial photos (see Meeting Minutes of 10/16/13, New Business #3 for context). They will run \$10 per scan, and the scans should all fit on one or possibly two CDs at \$5 per disc.

MOTION A motion was made by Chris Drelich to authorize Sue Nagle to bring the aerial photographs to Zip Type in Newburyport for scanning and receiving a disc(s) of images, total project not to exceed \$400. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

3. **The Saga of the Dead Forsythia**

Nancy dug up the left-side forsythia next to the First Settlers Monument, for it had met an untimely demise. She brought the remains of the plant back to Northeast Nursery, which credited us \$33 for a replacement in the spring. We will use the credit to purchase a new one in the spring.

4. **Membership Note**

As we do not have official word from Bill Towne on whether or not he is resigning from the HC, Chris will contact him to try to get confirmation so that we can fill his spot.

5. **Newbury Historic District**

Chris had sent the article from *Old Time New England* about the creation of the Newbury Historic District on May 24, 1976 that was undertaken by SPNEA (now Historic New England). Channing did some research and found that this is just a listing in the National Register; just because it's listed does not mean the town has a formal Historic District nor does the town need to have a Historic District Commission. Basically the listing in the National Register is primarily to document the area.

6. **Proposed Demolition Delay Bylaw**

Chris brought final copies of the Proposed Demolition Delay Bylaw and accompanying materials to the meeting. The HC gave the document one final perusal.

MOTION A motion was made by Chris Drelich to present the Proposed Demolition Delay Bylaw (dated November 13, 2013) to the following persons or groups:

- 2 copies to the Building Commissioner's office
- 5 copies to the Selectmen's office
- 8 copies to the Planning Board
- 1 copy to Tracy Blais, Town Administrator
- 1 copy to Town Counsel,

along with an invitation to recipients that - upon request - a liaison or liaisons from the Historical Commission will meet with those who have questions or who would like to discuss the possible acceptance of the Proposed Bylaw.

The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

New Business

1. **Massachusetts Historical Preservation Conference**

Channing spoke about the Massachusetts Historical Preservation Conference which he had recently attended. There were sessions about open space, demolition delay bylaws, and much more. He spoke very highly of the program and learned a lot of interesting and important information.

2. **“Special Municipal Employees”**

Channing would like the members of the HC to be officially recognized as *Special Municipal Employees*, giving each of us legal protection in the event that one or more of us are individually sued as members of the Historical Commission. Channing found that the Capital Planning Committee had recently asked for this distinction and he will explore the process further.

3. Facebook

We briefly discussed whether or not we would want to maintain a Facebook page. No action was taken.

4. Scanning Historical Resources

We briefly discussed the possibility of using a new document management system approved at Fall Town Meeting to scan historical documents and resources. Chris believes there is also money in the Town Clerk's budget for conservation of historic resources and books if we were to get something professionally conserved. Chris will follow up with Leslie Haley, Town Clerk.

5. New Lights for Upper Green Tree

Chris brought forth an idea to potentially replace the lights on the Upper Green Tree, as the old large multicolored ones are starting to look dated. He suggested replacing them with all-white LED lights which would save the town quite a lot in energy costs. Accompanying signs would be placed at the Upper Green identifying the project as "Gift of Historical Commission – Funded through Your Gifts" or something along those lines.

MOTION A motion was made by Chris Drelich to explore the process of replacing the lights on the Upper Green Tree, and that if the Highway Department and all appropriate parties agree that it would be possible, that the HC spend no more than \$475 from the Gift Fund on the purchase of new lights and the fabrication of signs and other associated costs. *The motion passed with a unanimous vote.*

Gifts Received

1. Martha Webb of High Road generously donated a printed copy of a microfiche file of the dedication of the Lower Green Monument along with an original program from the Dedication of the Cross on Oldtown Hill. Chris will see to it that these are filed with our historical collection appropriately and will send Martha a thank you note on behalf of the Commission.

Adjournment

The next meeting of the Historical Commission was set for Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at 6:30 PM. Since there was a scheduling issue with the Cub Scouts, we will meet at **The Governor's Academy** – Pescosolido Library, Glass Study Room, 1st floor. Chris will send confirmation of the place along with directions and a map.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM.



Christopher Drelich,
Clerk/Treasurer

12/11/13

Date of approval