

## Sterling Historical Commission Meeting 9/29/2016

Meeting was called to order at 6PM. Present: Vern Gaw, Bob Jones, Carol Lavigne, Jim French, Phil Holman, Cathy Harragian, and David Gibbs.

Mission Statement: The mission statement was approved as amended, voted on. The mission statement reads as follows:

In accordance with Massachusetts State Law, the Sterling Historical Commission identifies, protects and preserves the unique historical evidence of the architectural, agricultural, aesthetic, cultural, economic, political, social history, and heritage of Sterling Massachusetts.

The commission will:

Identify, compile, and maintain an inventory of the town's historic assets according to the Massachusetts Historical Commission's guidelines.

Identify resources for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Encourage community awareness of and promote interest in Sterling's historical heritage; educate the community about preservation issues and how preservation can positively impact the town's economic development and property values and historic landscapes.

Advise Town boards, committees, departments, and administration in all matters relating to historic preservation, including any proposed alteration, destruction, or relocation of historical assets.

Encourage renovation and adaptive reuse as alternatives to demolitions of historic properties.

Advocate for local ordinances, bylaws, and public actions that encourage the thoughtful, preservation-minded planning and development in keeping with the character and history of Sterling.

Be an active participant in the town planning process.

Discussion in order of priority of Commission's projects:

West Sterling School preservation

Historic Signage

Legg Cemetery/public interactive headstone cleanup in 2017

Walking tour of downtown

History slam game

Public relations outreach

New Business:

Discussion of Veteran's Grant Program

Legg cemetery workday was moved to spring

Trash needs to be removed from West Sterling Schoolhouse

An item for the town warrant is required by December for repair of West Sterling Schoolhouse

Next meeting October 27<sup>th</sup> 6pm.

Meeting is adjourned. Motion made by Dave Gibbs, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Jones