

Minutes of the Sterling Historical Commission

February 14, 2018

The meeting opened at 6:00pm. Present were Cathy Harragian, Jim French, Lindsay Van Gieson, David Gibbs, James Carroll, and Bob Jones. Visiting was Richard Maki.

Minutes of the meeting of January 10, 2018 were read and approved.

Thoreau Walk Through Sterling Event

Jim discussed a possible event this coming spring, possibly in association with Freedom's Way and their event The Thoreau Trail: A Walk to Wachusett <http://freedomsway.org/programs/thoreau/the-thoreau-trail/>. Jim has begun work on a flyer for the event which may include something to do with the Buss Tavern. Thoreaus original walk took place on July 19.

Sterling Master Plan

Cathy sought backup for attending and working on the Historical Commissions part in developing the Sterling Master Plan (which was last created in 1963). Bob, Jim F. and Jim C. volunteered to provide some backup.

CPA

The subject was tabled till March

Farmstead

Established that copies of the complete Farmstead report should be available for the Library, Vault, Historical Commission and Online. Property owners should be given their respective report. Kama will assist with making these copies.

Lindsey also presented a draft of a web site she is developing to document the Farmstead Survey. It is available at <https://sterlinghistoricfarmsteads.wordpress.com/>.

Review of Historic Houses

It was suggested that we should begin to document historic homes in Sterling. Some discussion of the work the Sterling Historic Society has done.

Cemeteries

Cathy discussed her meeting with the DPW Board, Ross Perry and Bill Tuttle. Discussed that the DPW is responsible for the care of the cemeteries which includes straightening headstones that have become crooked from frost heaves but not broken stones. There is a quote from a Jonathan Apell, Monument Conservator of \$1,300 per day for assistance with monument repair.

<http://www.gravestoneconservation.com/>

Discussed money being filtered off from the perpetual care account and moved into the general funds. Discussed the Eagle Scout project that helped reset and straighten headstones at Cookshire Cemetery.

Cathy sought assistance with performing an inventory of sorts for the cemeteries in Sterling. That is, Head stones missing, shattered, leaning, flat, etc. Bob committed to survey Legg Cemetery before the next meeting.

Cathy to meet with the Boy Scouts. Cathy to scan and distribute the 1994 report and the inventory of the Chocksett Cemetery.

West Sterling School House

Jim is setting up a joint meeting with the Sterling Land Trust to be held this spring.

Next meeting to be held on March 14, 2018 at 6:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:021pm

Respectfully submitted

Bob Jones