

Minutes of the Sterling Historical Commission

February 25, 2016

Meeting held in Room 201 Butterick Municipal Building

Meeting called to order at 7:00 by Vern Gaw. Members present Vern Gaw, . Carol Lavigne , Cathy Harragian, Jim French, Bob Jones and guest David Gibbs.

Minutes from January meeting were approved. Motion by Jim French, Second by Kathy Harragian

Members discussed the priorities for the Commission in the coming year.

1. Historical Properties:

Members discussed the need to improve utilization of the School House including holding Commission meetings and other events. The lack of sanitary facilities hinders the utility of the building. Senator Steve Brewer has shown some interest in the School House and will be meeting with Jim French and David Gibbs. Senator Brewer has been involved with the restoration of other school houses and has helped obtaining funding.

David Gibbs would like to do a "Historic Structures" report for an MPPF Pre Development Grant and nominate the School House for the State Register of Historic Places.

Discussed if there is anything the Historical Society can do. Jim French proposed a joint meeting between the SHS and the SHC. Discussed need to obtain FY 2018 funding for School House de-leading and painting.

The Gun Shop is another property that is in dire need of rehabilitation. Ownership seems to be in transition between financial institutions. More research needs to be done.

2. Farmstead Report:

Reiterated desire to digitize the Farmstead report and create a printed copy for the Sterling Historical Society, Library and farm owners. Documents still need to be scanned and compiled into a single document for publication and posting on the web.

Discussion of obtaining an intern for museum or historical study from Clark, WPI, Tufts or Harvard.

3. 1835 Town Hall

David Gibbs reported that we were not seeking MPPF grant funds as a result of conversations with Paul Holtz of the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Mr. Holts advised that no funding would be available if we deviated from Slate or Wood Shingles as roofing material and since the 1835 Town Hall Committee was in favor of asphalt shingles, it would make no sense to seek grant funding.

Jim motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kathy. Meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm

Respectfully submitted

Bob Jones