

Minutes of the Sterling Historical Commission

August 8, 2017

The meeting opened at 6:08pm. Members present were Cathy Harragian, Jim French, David Gibbs and Bob Jones. Vern Gaw did not attend.

Minutes of the meeting of June 14, 2017 were approved.

Membership

Looking to post on our web page that we are looking for members. Bob offered to post on Town Web Site and 1835 Town Hall Facebook page. All members will reach out to possible interest parties.

Budget

David brought up that in his recent research of Town Reports, the Historical Commission was getting a larger budget in the 1960's and 1970's than in current years. Bob mentioned that those were the days of Francis Tapley. David mentioned Ruth Hopfman and John Powers. We agreed that the Commission really requires a larger budget. A minimum of \$1,500. Cathy said she would advise the Town Administrator and the Finance Committee before year end.

Bob mentioned that we should be working with the Town Clerk to continue digitizing Town Records. Town Reports are digitized and available online between 1794 and 1894. No Town Reports are digitized between 1894 and 2009. Annual Reports from 2010 are available on line. We need to digitize 1895 through 2009.

Bob will research a microfiche scanner since there are many records stored on microfiche but not yet converted to PDF. We discussed the possibility of obtaining Cultural Grant funding for digitizing.

Bob will speak with Dawn Michanowicz to coordinate a meeting between the Historical Commission and the Town Clerk.

Signs

Cathy and David will work together to locate proper sign-planting locations for historic marker signs.

West Sterling School House

It was brought up that the electric meter was removed from the schoolhouse to avoid further inadvertent electric usage. It was agreed that it should be replaced. Motioned by Bob and seconded by Dave to put meter back on West Sterling Schoolhouse and assign it to the Sterling Historical Commission to review and approve all future electric bills. Motion passed.

Discussed researching cost of connecting schoolhouse to water supply. Also discussed adaptive reuse of building and a need for a toilet – even a composting toilet. Discussed possible grant opportunities.

CPA – Community Preservation Act

We discussed seeking approval for CPA in either 2018 or 2019. We discussed the fact that Sterling has lost out on thousands of dollars in matching funding from the State because we have not approved CPA in Sterling. Bob mentioned that Boston signed last year and that will reduce the pool of available funds. Cathy will discuss the opportunity with the Town Administrator.

Next Meeting September 13, 2017 6pm Town Hall

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm

Respectfully submitted

Bob Jones