

Minutes of the Sterling Historical Commission

November 9, 2017

The meeting opened at 6:00pm. Members present were Cathy Harragian, Jim French, Lindsay Van Gieson, and Bob Jones. David Gibbs and Vern Gaw did not attend. Also attending was James Carroll who has applied for membership in the Committee.

Minutes of the meeting of October 11, 2017 were read and approved.

James Carroll

Interview with James Carroll. Fitchburg State graduate, historic interest, reenactment American Revolution, WWI. Past employee of National Park Service.

Overview of SHC including Farmstead Study, signage, CPA, School House, Historical Districts, West Sterling & Pottery Village.

Discussion regarding number of members in the Commission. The members believed it was a 7-member Commission. A motion was made by Bob Jones, seconded by Jim French to recommend James Carroll be appointed to the Sterling Historic Commission. Voted Unanimously.

West Sterling School House

Discussion of West Sterling School House decommissioned in 1938. Jim French discussed his meeting with the Sterling Land Trust and their possible interest in setting up a division that would take an interest in the school house under the 501c3 to allow fund raising. The Board of the Land Trust was receptive to the idea. Jim will work up a proposed Memorandum of Agreement clarifying the relationship between the Land Trust and the Town of Sterling in regards to the school house to be reviewed at a future meeting.

Farmstead

A review of the requirements of the Farmstead Survey were discussed. Bob will distribute a Dropbox link to the files so that Lindsay and Jim C. can review. It was stated that the goal is to create a single document with text and photographs from study. A document of more than 500 pages could then be distributed to farm owners and also the Town and the Library.

Other Projects

Cathy said that SHC should be participating with the Town Planning Board and participate in the Town Plan. Cathy will followup.

Cathy will meet with Vern to go over the location of the historic markers that need to be installed.

Next meeting to be held on December 13, 2017 at 6:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm

Respectfully submitted

Bob Jones