

Sterling Historical Commission

Meeting Notes

June 14, 2017

Attendance: Cathy Harragian, Robert Jones, David Gibbs, Carol LaVigne, Jim French, Guest Paula Davison, Massachusetts DCR (Absent Vern Gaw)

Minutes of March 30, 2017 meeting approved

DCR and the Kristoff Piggery

Discussion with Paula Davison regarding the meetings and conversations between DCR and Vern Gaw regarding the demolition of former pig farm structures. An agreement was drafted that detailed these points.

- The Cooker equipment will be retained but the steam facility and the birthing sheds will be demolished and removed. Asbestos will be remediated.
- DCR is concerned with signage due to vandalism and will not post signs on Merrill Road and Route 140 as well as the end of Merrill Road.
- DCR will create an interactive online map and information App with GPS capabilities mapping all significant locations and provide information and photographs of the buildings.
- Sterling Historical Commission will take the lead in obtaining personal histories from family members and past employees of the piggery.

A motion was made to accept the overall tenor of the agreement with the amendment that DCR would incorporate historic photographs the Historical Commission obtained of the piggery should SHC be able to obtain such photographs. Voted in favor David, Bob, Cathy, Carol. Jim French abstained.

Historic Signs

A motion was made to spend an amount not to exceed \$700 for the purchase of seven (7) 4x4 posts and the labor of backing the historic signs with exterior plywood, planting the posts and attaching the signs. An amount of \$304.45 to be encumbered from FY17 and the balance to be paid from FY18 funds. Voted in favor: Unanimous

Reclassification of \$261.55

An entry on the financial reports for account 01670-57000 show a reclassification of \$261.55 reducing the available funds of the Commission. Bob has asked Fred Aponte to explain that entry.

Membership

The Historical Commission needs to solicit two (2) additional members to replace Phil Nash and Ver Gaw.

General Discussion

A discussion and review of the 1835 Roof project, selection of a building sub-committee by the Board of Selectmen.

An mysteriously electric bill of nearly \$400 for the one room school house was presented to the Sterling Historical Society by Ross Perry as a potential source of payment. No one understands how this charge was accrued.

Carol will work up a walking tour of Sterling including open space and historical locations. It will be a new document replacing the walking tour pamphlet created years ago.

David discussed the issue of \$25,000 taken out of Perpetual Care and placed in the general budget. Bob advised he would reach out to Ross Perry to find out where those funds go and why they are removed.

Jim brought up the Chocksett Cemetery and the parcel of land adjacent owned by Walter F Crosby Jr. It is a hill behind the cemetery that if cleared represents an environmental risk to the cemetery. Bob and David agreed to draft a letter to the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and other Town officials discussing the potential threat to the cemetery.

Motion to adjourn at 7:15PM

Next meeting:

Wednesday July 12, 2017 6:00PM