

MINUTES OF WELLESLEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING of January 10, 2017.

Present: Arvid von Taube, Chair; Lawrence McNally, Vice Chair; Members: Grant Brown, Peter Fergusson, Helen Robertson, Rise Shepsle; Alternates: Dwight Lueth, Emily Maitin, Joel Slocum, Michael Racette; Advisory member: Joshua Dorin

1. Von Taube called the meeting to order at 7:05 in the Great Hall, Wellesley Town Hall. Given the absence of one full member, von Taube designated Maitin in place of the vacant membership position.
2. Citizen Speak: None
3. Minutes: It was moved by McNally, seconded by Fergusson, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes as amended of the WHC meeting of December 13, 2016.
4. New Business: The Fells branch library is the oldest municipal building in town and it needs to replace its roof. It is currently asphalt but wood, although more expensive, is more historically accurate. The library also needs to be painted. Lueth suggested taking a shingle and testing for color. Joseph McDonough, Director of Facilities, asked how historically accurate is the current color scheme? It was built in 1858 as a school house and remained as such until Hardy Elementary School was built. Von Taube asked Dorin to advise McDonough and Stephen Gagosian, Senior Project Manager, Capital Programs, that WHC discussed the issue and agreed that the painting and roofing should conform as closely as possible to the original color and materials respectively.
5. Cheever Property: 828 Washington, Wellesley College's Center for Women. Von Taube and Fergusson had no updated information on the property. Fergusson noted that the Center wants to be on campus. There are 100 occupants and a new building would be needed. If the building became vacant a decision would be made as to its use. It is the only college building on the National Register.
6. CPC Projects: Maitin, WHC representative to CPC, reported that the WHC would work with the Town Finance Department to prepare an RFQ for the proposed project, which includes research on Wellesley's historic resources within several villages "so-called" of Wellesley. Goal to bring 2009 proposal to completion.
7. House Plaque Approvals: Dorin provided copies of research profiles for 2 properties: 42 Riverdale Road and 126 Abbott Road. After discussion it was moved by Brown, seconded by Robertson, and passed unanimously to authorize Dorin to send WHC plaque application materials to the homeowners of both residences. A discussion about the Plaque Program was tabled until February meeting.
8. Proposed Dr. Joseph Murray Plaque: Robertson noted that Kit Bowry plans to propose to the NRC that a plaque be placed on the grounds of Town Hall to honor Dr. Murray. The plaque would be mounted on stone. Fergusson would not support mounting the plaque on stone; he would prefer it be carved in stone. It was noted that the plaque should not be placed too close to the plaque honoring Dr. William Morton. That plaque marks the location of Morton's house.
9. Veterans Memorial: Von Taube told Jack Morgan of the Board of Selectmen that the current monument is not, from preliminary review, historically significant. There are no concrete plans for replacement.

10. Bylaw Subcommittee Update: Dorin reported that the Planning Board endorsed the Bylaw proposal. The subcommittee was preparing to go before the Selectmen. Yesterday, the Selectmen reviewed Articles 40, Bylaw, 41, staff funding. Brown and Dorin met with Larissa Brown, principal consultant Stantec. She will develop a mission statement for Town Meeting. The Bylaw subcommittee will meet with the Green Collaborative, Sustainable Wellesley and Advisory. Von Taube announced that a public hearing on the Bylaw would be held February 15.
11. 135 Great Plain Avenue: Von Taube said that the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Town's obligation for the preservation, protection, and maintenance of the historic stone gates at the current entrance to the property at 135 Great Plain Avenue on Town-owned land will be brought to the Selectmen.
12. Wellesley Hills Station: Von Taube informed the WHC that a special permit for a sign permit for the plaque has been approved.
13. Town Hall Envelope Study: Dorin reported that there is no update on the cost estimates.
14. House Plaque Research Contract: Dorin submitted research for the WHC plaque program totaling 38 properties and an invoice for \$3,800.
15. Beebe Plaque: Lueth is trying to move forward with plaques for Beebe House and Wellesley Inn. Lueth will contact those who made the Caffè Nero plaques.
16. Wellesley Square Wayfinding and Branding: Brown reported that the Wellesley Square Wayfinding and Branding Project Committee approved the color scheme, green and gray for signage. The next expenditure will be on hardware.
17. HHU MPC Committee: Will discuss at next meeting.
18. It was moved by Fergusson, **seconded** by Robertson, and **passed unanimously** to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rise Shepsle