

Woodstock Historic Properties Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2020

6 PM

Held via Zoom

youtube link to the HPC 9/28/2020 meeting https://youtu.be/qjnIxTVHW_A

1. Zoom Meeting was called to order at 6:07 P.M. by Kristen Heitert. Also attending were Tom Chase, Myron Stachiw; Jean McClellan joined at 6:30 PM.
3. Minutes of 8/24/2020 meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously on motion by Myron Stachiw, seconded by Kristen Heitert.
4. No Public Comment
5. No Correspondence
6. Old Business
 - Discussion of Barn survey progress. Kristen Heitert will enter data on owners into existing database, and will complete Tom Chase's assigned barns.

7. New Business

Discussion of Bradford-Marcy Cemetery database formerly housed on the Town of Woodstock website. On 9/23/2020 the WHPC was informed by Karen Fitzpatrick, Treasurer, Town of Woodstock, of the following:

In FY 2019-2020 the town website was under construction and the new webhost cannot maintain the database therefore, a separate website to host this database needed to be created. Jim Stratos from Stratos Studios will continue to host and maintain this database and I believe there is still a link on the town website that directs you to the site. That being said, there are additional fees associated with this new site. There is a monthly fee of \$14.99 per month for website hosting and a support and maintenance fee of \$50.00 per month. The town will pay the \$50.00 per month support and maintenance fee from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. The hosting fee will need to be paid from the Historic Properties budget. There is currently a balance of \$400.00 available in that line item. The total annual cost for the website hosting that the Commission will be responsible for is \$179.88. Please take this into consideration when submitting the FY 2021-2022 budget for Historic Properties.

No formal vote was taken at this time by the present WHPC members to approve this expenditure. Kristen Heitert will follow up with the Town Treasurer regarding these expenses and when they will commence.

Myron Stachiw brought up the possibility of applying for another grant from the CT State Historic Preservation Office under the Certified Local Government Program to complete the remaining survey work on the East Woodstock Cemetery begun several years ago. It is clear that the work cannot be completed successfully by volunteer labor only, and that the WHPC should seek grant funds to hire a historical consultant to complete the remaining survey and data-entry work. Myron S. also suggested that we bring in a cemetery gravestone restoration specialist to conduct a one-day workshop/assessment to advise the East Woodstock Cemetery Association about the need for the repair/conservation of the existing grave markers, a number of which have been broken or are leaning precariously. Kristen H. suggested that this might be included in a grant application to the CT SHPO. Myron S. will look into the availability of grant funds and the schedule for submission of an application and report at the next meeting. Tom C. will contact the historical consultant who conducted a similar workshop at the Woodstock Hill Cemetery during a New England Museums Association program several years ago to determine his interest and availability for participation in such a grant application.

Jean McClellan brought up the issue of 599 Rt. 169 and the proposed landscape alterations planned there by the new owners. The property is the site of a late 17th century homelot and trading post/store. At a public hearing held by the Woodstock Planning and Zoning Commission held on August 20, 2020, the historical importance of the site was discussed and the potential archaeological resources on the site were mentioned. As they may date to the very earliest period of settlement of the town by Anglo-American settlers from Roxbury, Massachusetts Bay Colony, it was felt that precautions should be taken to insure that these resources, if they survive, are not unnecessarily damaged or destroyed. Some confusion arose among involved parties as to who had the jurisdiction to recommend archaeological investigations – the Historic District Commission or the Historic Properties Commission.

The WHPC members present (at the WHPC September 28 meeting) discussed the issues of archaeological sensitivity of the site and also whether in fact the WHPC has any responsibility for review of this site, as it is not a listed historic property in the Town of Woodstock ordinance creating and supporting the Historic Properties Commission, but instead is found within the bounds of the Woodstock Hill Historic District, and thus under the review of the Woodstock Historic District Commission. Kristen Heitert will contact Mary Dunne at the CT SHPO to clarify this.

It was discussed whether the WHPC should send a letter to the P & Z Commission, in its role as a town commission engaged in historic preservation, recommending that at minimum archaeological monitoring be undertaken during the proposed landscaping work on the site. Kristen H. will draft such a letter and circulate it among WHPC members for review before the next P&Z Commission public hearing continued to 15 October 2020.

8. Adjournment, moved by Myron Stachiw, seconded by Tom Chase, unanimously approved at 7:00 P.M.

Please note that these minutes are in draft form until approved by the Commission.

Respectfully submitted by Myron O. Stachiw, Vice-Chair (acting as Secretary for this meeting in place of Jean McClellan)