

Town of Stow
Stow Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2024

I. Call to order

The regular meeting of the Stow Historical Commission was called to order at 7:32 p.m. on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 on Zoom.

II. Roll call

The following people were present:

Commission Members: Dot Spaulding, Barbara Clancy, Andy Crosby, Stacen Goldman, Bob Norton

Absent: none Guests: none

III. Meeting Minutes

Andy Crosby made and Stacen Goldman seconded a motion to approve the December minutes as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Treasurer's Reports

There were no changes to the Treasurer's report from last month. Stacen Goldman made and Bob Norton seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Building Permits

Andy Crosby reported that a demolition permit for 89 Kingland Road was approved. The permit for 73 Kingland was closed.

VI. Community Preservation Committee

Barbara Clancy said that in addition to the Randall Library's request for \$4,600 in CPA funds to restore the portrait of John Randall, the Stow Municipal Affordable Housing Trust has requested \$200,000 in additional funds to for constructing affordable housing at Bird Meadow, off Red Acre Road. The CPC will make a final decision on these applications at their meeting on February 5.

VII. Comprehensive Plan Form

Commission members responded to a form distributed by the planning department designed to guide review of the town's comprehensive plan. For top three needs, commission members focused on priority projects, and listed restoring West School and Town Hall, conducting a survey of archaeologically significant sites, and actively encourage people to preserve historic properties.

Commission members' observations on Stow noted that there are a large number of historic properties in town, but no protection for them, which could result in their loss. Public interest in historic preservation is lower than interest in preserving open space and preserving small-town charm. Residents are also concerned about the cost of historic preservation.

Historic preservation strengths include Stow's extensive documentation of historic properties, and availability of CPA funds for historic preservation. Stacen Goldman noted that residents' appreciation of Stow's small-town character is also a way for them to connect with local history.

Commission members noted the challenges of coordinating the several groups that are involved in local history research and preservation, including the Commission, the Historical Society, and Ancient Documents. Another challenge is how to pique interest in local history. There is no single place for people to learn and develop an appreciation of Stow's past. The basement of the town building could possibly be used as a display area after the library renovation. The lack of an active central group to take on the work of helping residents appreciate local history is a problem, though the Historical Society has held several well-attended events in the past. Stow could also use an advocacy group for preservation that isn't a town board or commission, especially for big projects requiring fundraising, such as renovation of the Town Hall.

A public forum on the comprehensive plan will be held later in January.

VIII. Stow's Artifacts

Bob Norton reported that he was able to open the musket case and inspect the musket. It needs to be wrapped for storage. Stacen suggested using untreated/undyed muslin tied with twill tape. The Stow Police Department doesn't have a gun safe, but it can be stored in their weapons/evidence closet. Once the gun is stored, the case can be stored with the rest of the artifacts at the Town Hall. Dot Spaulding said that she needs to print out sheets to attach to the boxes listing box contents.

IX. West School

Barbara Clancy had nothing new to report. Dot Spaulding said she wanted to get some additional quotes for consulting on the National Register application.

X. New Members

Associate members are still needed.

XI. Old and New Business

None.

XII. Correspondence

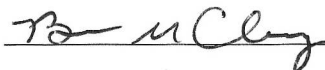
Andy noted that the Zoning Board of Appeals will review the housing plan for Stow Acres.

XIII. Adjournment

Stacen Goldman made and Andy Crosby seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 1, 2024

Minutes submitted by: Barbara Clancy



Minutes Approved: Feb 1, 2024