



Town of Wilmington

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TOWN OF WILMINGTON, MA

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WILMINGTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

September 11, 2023

at 7:00 p.m.

Wilmington Town Museum

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM

Members in attendance Bonny Smith, Karin Bloom, Joe Jackson, Christine Johnston and Jim Buck (attending virtually). Also in attendance are Matthew Beres (Curator), and Emily Lam (Clerk).

I Minutes of the Meeting June 6, 2023

Joe made a motion to approve the minutes, Jim 2nd the motion. All in favor and minutes approved

II. Treasurer's Report

Fiscal Year '24 started on July 1, 2023.

Joe had a question about the Passmore donation to be used for the "Northern L" of the Museum, Bonny understands that these funds have not been received yet.

Christine made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Karin 2nd the motion. All in favor and the Treasurer's Report is accepted.

III. Topics for Discussion

New Business:

1. Welcome to our new Museum Curator – Matthew Beres
 - a. His first day is today and still working out schedule, will likely keep the Museum closed for a couple weeks so he can get on board.
2. Research Presentation – Joe Jackson
 - a. Summer was busy with research questions.
 - i. Joe and Christine are making a presentation on Thursday September 14th for the Perrys Corner exhibit.
 - ii. Conducted an ownership study of the Will Butter house lot at 181 Chestnut Street to Marjorie MacDonald (current owner)
 - iii. The town clock which is now on top of the Congregational Church no longer in working condition (perhaps this would be something to fundraise on for the 300th anniversary)
 - iv. The Bailey house which is being renovated,

- v. Simons ancestral research, learned about the 74 Proprietors Lots “the Great Lots”. Joe will continue his research in this area
- 3. International Harvester Truck – Meeting w/Larz and Stu Neilson
 - a. Plans for getting up on jack stands. Bob
 - i. We need a decision from the Neilson’s if they are going to donate or if not that they will sign a letter that they will not hold WHC liable for damage.
- 4. Archives from second floor of Museum ell
 - a. Where to store?
 - i. Most items have been moved to the ground floor. Terry and Bonny went to the Library to compare collections. We have some duplicates of Town Yearbooks 1930s to current and annual reports and need to decide how to best handle these. The consensus is to 1st Christine will let us know what library is missing and we will check our collection to see if we can give the library what is needed. Then remove what remains from the 2nd floor and into bins in the basement. Next time we have an intern or volunteer this can be a project for them. Offer up to town citizens old copies for a donation.
 - ii. Bonny will be meeting with George and Dennis to see if there is additional storage we can use elsewhere.
 - iii. Additional conversation of asking for space in new town hall vault. Can we have a list of what is already in that archive?
- 5. Perry’s Corner Dig Update – Christine
 - a. Library Presentation September 14
 - i. Christine and Joe will be discussing the history of the site and the process of our dig.
- 6. 2023 Calendar of events
 - a. Reminder – Tina Stewart retirement party (Library Director)– Sept 15
 - a. 50th Anniversary of Museum/Tavern –recap
 - i. Great event! Everyone has been reimbursed for items purchased
 - ii. Next time we should consider purchasing a microphone and speaker because it was difficult to hear.
 - iii. There is coverage on the video on demand section of WCTV
- 7. Collections Management Policy
 - a. We need to review this policy as a Commission. Bonny will send out the current version to everyone- to be voted on in 2025.
- 8. Restoration projects – roofs, windows – update
 - a. No update, as far as we know this has not gone out for bids yet.
- 9. 3rd Grade Fieldtrip-postponed until Spring of 2024
 - a. Not going to be able to do that this Fall. Will hope to have this event in the spring semester
- 10. Spanish Exchange Student Tour - Sept 18th – 1:30pm
 - a. High School Spanish exchange student group will be coming through next week about 15 students. Karin suggested we should consider talking about things that teenagers would have been doing here historically. Ice cutting and ice skating, working in the hop field. Immigrants worked at the tannery.

11. Historic Home Inventory Project
 - a. This is a long-term project that we would like to consider. Christine is checking with other towns on their policies for plaques and registering historic homes.
12. Recreation Department partnership
 - a. Bonny met with the rec department chair on ideas to use our space.
13. Adele's Collection
 - a. We have everything in our possession that Adele's family has donated, Terry has started to put some important papers into acid free sleeves.
14. Carriage House cleanout
 - a. There are some pieces of wood and debris in the carriage house that need to be removed
 - b. We will need to take a pause on additions to our collection for now for a couple of months until the Passmore collection can be accessioned. Unless very important to town history.

Recurring Topics:

1. Curator Monthly Report - none
2. Correspondence
 - a. Note from Andrea Houser about the 50th celebration and thank you
3. Demo Permits - none
4. Artifact of the Month – Passmore Collection
5. Other - none
6. Public Comment - none

IV. For Future Consideration

1. Historic House Plaque Policy
2. Gravestone Restoration Project – Christine
3. Building Reuse Committee – Historical Commission Representation - update
4. 300th Anniversary
5. Other

Jim made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30PM Joe 2nd the motion. All in favor. Meeting closed.

