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2023 DEC -5 AM 9:39



Town of Wilmington

Wilmington, Massachusetts 01887

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WILMINGTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

October 9 2023

at 7:00 p.m.

Wilmington Town Museum

Meeting called to order at 7:02PM

Members in attendance Bonny Smith, Karin Bloom, Bob Mallett, Christine Johnston, Odette Kent and Jim Buck (attending virtually). Also in attendance are Terry McDermott, Steve Burghouse, Matthew Ceres (Curator) and Emily Lam (Clerk).

I Minutes of the Meeting September 11, 2023

Odette made a motion to accept the minutes of the September meeting, Christine 2nd the motion and Paul abstained, all others in favor and minutes approved.

II. Treasurer's Report

Christine made a motion to accept the Treasurers Report, Bob 2nd the motion, all in favor and report is accepted.

- a. Wireless HDMI Receiver/Transmitter – Matt would like to purchase this to play audio and visual in the special exhibit room
 - i. Bob made a motion to expense \$400 for the purchase of equipment needed to set up this process. Matt will talk with IT about this first to see if they have anything we can use and or other funds available to pay for it. Odette 2nd the motion, all in favor and motion approved.
- b. Track Lighting – Matt would like to purchase and install track lights in the ballroom and update the theme to be more of a textile room. Track lights will be positioned to make the dresses and fabric look more appealing and easily viewed.
 - i. Bob made a motion to expense no more than \$200 for track lights, Odette 2nd the motion, all in favor and motion approved
- c. Portable PA System – Bob has a system that the Historical Commission can borrow anytime its needed.

III. Topics for Discussion

New Business:

1. Research Presentation – Joe Jackson
 - a. Not in attendance, speaking engagement

2. International Harvester Truck – Meeting w/Larz and Stu Neilson – Bonny is still waiting to hear back and should have an update by October 17, 2023.
 - a. Plans for getting up on jack stands. Bob and Steve will connect to confirm details or getting the truck on stands.
3. Archives from second floor of Museum ell
 - a. Where to store? Offsite storage unit?
 - i. Bonny has checked out storage units around town and will have another conversation with Susan Inman on this matter.
4. Perry's Corner Dig Update – Christine
 - a. Library program was a rousing success, lots of good feedback from the community
5. 2023 Calendar of events
 - a. Holiday Social – Dec 3rd
 - i. We will update the December meeting of the Historical Commission to the 4th of December
6. Roving Archivist Report
 - a. Collections Management Policy – Matt will mark up changes on this policy for review. The Historical Commission will get back to the Roving Archivist Program on our feedback from the report
7. Restoration projects – roofs, windows –
 - a. DPW has installed rain diverters and no leaks so far. They say the roof will be done by Mid November. This seems unlikely as far as we are aware, the project has not gone out for bid.
8. Spanish Exchange Student Tour – Recap
 - a. Students came through and the visit went ok, they were semi interested but typical high school students. Matt is considering altering the tour script for the high school student visits and discussing more complex topics like the underground railroad and why careers in the history fields are important. Karin is excited to help with this project and future tours as well.
9. Historic Plaque Policy – Christine researching
 - a. Christine gathered a round up of neighboring towns. In other towns the homeowners have to apply and pay for the process, most use MA Cultural Resource Information System database (MACRIS), some just say your house has to be 75+ years or older, cultural significance or historical figure lived there, architectural features. There are as many different policies as there are towns.
 - b. Terry commented that when she previously researched demolition delays it was a similar situation and suggested we use something objective like the database
10. Historic Home Inventory Project
11. Carriage House cleanout
 - a. Bonny suggested we have a group cleaning day to get this project done

Recurring Topics:

1. Curator Monthly Report
 - a. November open house will be a donuts and cider event and to advertise Matt as the new Curator. We have advertised this with the Wilmington Apple, at the schools and on our social media pages.
 - b. Matt has been thinking about the best way to display our Native American artifacts that we have and perhaps the best way would be in a special exhibit at some point
 - c. Veterans exhibit will replace Perry Corner in the special exhibit hall. Lou Cimaglia has some

- things to contribute to the exhibit and is working together with Matt to complete.
- d. Matt will be hosting a Veterans Coffee event on Nov 15th 9:30. Hoping to make this a regular event.
 - e. Matt is posting on social medial, we have a new Instagram @town_museum
- 2. Correspondence
 - a. none
 - 3. Demo Permits
 - a. none
 - 4. Artifact of the Month
 - a. Mrs. Dr. Henry Hiller's Silver Pitcher which is displayed on the center table in Parlor, not accessioned yet
 - 5. Other
 - a. Bob thanked Terry for her service and welcome to Matt Beres
 - b. Karin let us know that Vestige is on tap in Remnant Brewery in Sommerville that contains Wilmington hops
 - c. The HC thanked Terry for her continued service to the Commission and Museum
 - d. Karin thanked all of the commission for their service to Wilmington and keeping history alive in our town.
 - 6. Public Comment
 - a. Steve thanked Terry for her continued service to the museum
 - b. Terry is excited for Matts contribution to the museum in bringing in his vast knowledge of American history and connecting that to Wilmington history, the HC is here to support you Matt!

IV. For Future Consideration

- 1. Gravestone Restoration Project – Christine
 - a. Over winter Christine will be working on this project to get appropriate approval from town and owners of graves
- 2. Building Reuse Committee – Historical Commission Representation - update
- 3. 300th Anniversary
- 4. Other

Christine made a motion to adjourn the meeting 8:36, Bob 2nd and all in favor. Meeting closed

