



# *Town of Wilmington*

*Wilmington, Massachusetts, 01887*

*Bonny Smith*  
*Chair, Historical Commission*  
*(508) 572-4884*  
[bsmith@wilmingtonma.gov](mailto:bsmith@wilmingtonma.gov)

*Matthew Beres*  
*Museum Curator*  
*(978) 658-5475*  
[mberes@wilmingtonma.gov](mailto:mberes@wilmingtonma.gov)

*Anthony Accardi*  
*Historical Commission, Clerk*  
*(978) 658-3311*  
[aaccardi@wilmingtonma.gov](mailto:aaccardi@wilmingtonma.gov)

## WILMINGTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

**March 11, 2024**

**at 7:00 p.m.**

**Wilmington Town Museum / Col. Harnden Tavern**

RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
2024 APR 10 PM 4:15  
TOWN OF WILMINGTON, MA

Bonny called the meeting to order 7:04 pm

Members in attendance: Bonny Smith, Joe Jackson, Christine Johnston, Jim Buck, Karin Bloom  
Also in attendance: Matthew Beres, Anthony Accardi (Clerk).

### **I Minutes of the Meeting February 12, 2023**

Jim Buck made a motion to approve the minutes, Christine Johnston 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor and minutes approved.

### **II. Treasurer's Report**

Jim Buck made a motion to approve with Christine Johnston 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor and the Treasurer's Report was approved.

Bonny mentioned that she attended the Finance Committee meeting and noted that the truck was a concern of theirs. She also noted that Dennis Kelley, the Superintendent of Public Buildings, also attended the Select Board Meeting to discuss the window and roof bids.

### **III. Topics for Discussion**

#### **New Business:**

1. **Donations:** Bonny announced that the 1921 International Harvester Truck (previously owned by Larz and Stu Neilson) has officially been donated. Bonny will be receiving the Bill of Sale of purchase from The Edaville Railroad. However, this is not a titled vehicle so it is not really needed for this donation. Jim Buck made a motion to accept the donation and Christine Johnston 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor and the donation of the Neilsen truck was approved. A possible ceremony was discussed and Matt mentioned that he would like to display it outside the Museum. Bonny also mentioned that Henry Diorio has worked on it in the past. Jim mentioned that we should post this to Facebook to commemorate this huge undertaking.
2. Matt then presented The Woodside Donations: A Certificate of Retirement/ Merit and a Pewter Cup. Jim Buck made a motion to accept these items and Christine Johnston 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor and these items were accepted by the Commission.

3. **Senior Citizen Tax Work-Off Program:** Bonny announced that the person selected for this program backed out and she had reached out to Beverly Dalton in the Town Manager's Office for a replacement. Christine Johnston mentioned that there are many patrons at the library looking for volunteer opportunities.
4. **Gravestone Cleaning Project:** Looking to Temporary Town Manager, Lou Cimaglia and Town Counsel for approval.
5. **Roof and Window Restoration:** Bonny announced that Dennie Kelley was moving forward to with the separate bid due to the bids being too high for this as a single project.
6. **Building Reuse Committee:** Bonny announced that there was nothing new to report.
7. **Grants:** Matt announced that the Massachusetts Historical Preservation Grant application was due on Friday, March 15, 2024. He stated that he has the application completed and was waiting on Town Counsel to approve. It was discussed that there was a preservation restriction on the property and that we are getting Select Board support. We are applying for \$74,000. The group applauded Matt for his hard work and effort on getting this completed.
8. **Women's History Month Tea:** Karin reported that she really has not done anything on this yet. She requested days that the museum is open for possible dates – TABLED.
9. **Living History Night:** Bonny announced a possible date of June 9, 2024. She mentioned that she met with Frank West of The Wilmington Minutemen for a possible quasi "Sturbridge Village" event with the Minutemen. The Commission is attempting to replicate what an evening at the tavern may have been like. Christine Johnston suggested having a pen with sheep in it – looking for roughly a 1790's period. Also discussed was the possibility of obtaining a 24-hour alcohol license or serving non-alcohol beer and having "Living History" demonstrations throughout the entire event.
10. **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Field Trip:** Bonny announced this was being planned for the fall.
11. **High School Volunteer Program Update:** Matt mentioned he was working with the principal of the high school on this.
12. **Museum "curb appeal"** - Matt then discussed that he was trying to give the museum some "curb appeal" He discussed possible Indian Villages.....the Indians Tribe involved in the Harnden Massacre. Joe Jackson mentioned Wilmington being in the Southern end of the Indian Hunting grounds.
13. **250 Anniversary of America:** Nothing new to report. Matt mentioned that he has reached out to a few historical organizations and has received no response yet.
14. **Museum Logo – Update:** Matt stated that this is on Facebook and he has pushed up the due date to April 1<sup>st</sup> and wants to give an award to the winner. It was then discussed the name of the museum as "Town Museum" and rebranding the museum was discussed. Matt suggested having a sign placed on Route 93.

15. **Relocation of old newspapers:** Matt reported that these cannot be placed in the old Wildwood School due to the fact it is not heated and damage could come to the newspapers. Matt said he was working on a back up plan. Bonny discussed getting shelving and contacting Dennie Kelly for assistance in this project. Matt requested funds for this shelving. Karin Bloom made a motion to approve this funding and it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe Jackson. The motion was approved and the shelving will be funded with a limit of \$350.00.
16. **Minutemen Installation Date:** Bonny announced the date for the installation of officers as being on Sunday, May 24, 2024.
17. Matt announced that Frank West wanted to donate his sign. Joe Jackson made a motion to approve and accept this donation, Karin Bloom 2<sup>nd</sup> and the motion was approved to accept the sign.
18. Bonny announced the date of The Liberty Pole Raising as being Sunday, April 28, 2024
19. Bonny announced that “Designs by Don” wants to work with the Commission. Bonny mentioned carrying the Book written by Gerry O’Reilly. It was decided that they would need to get approval from Gerry before this could proceed and details worked out.

#### IV. **Recurring Topics:**

##### 1. **Curator Monthly Report:**

###### **Building Issues:**

- a. Matt reported no new building issues.

###### **Museum Inventory Projects:**

- a. Matt discussed the Past Perfect and Photo Uploads – The Neilsen Donations.
- b. The Mirror Digitization was discussed. It was noted that the mirrors are fragile. Matt stated he was meeting with Brett at the library and was going to try using a different scanner
- c. Matt is working on ideas on displaying items as part of the Carraige House Exhibition. Christine Johnston mentioned that The Andover Library has a poster maker. Bonny also mentioned using Boston Graphics: designing background scenes for display purposes – also reaching out to the high school drama for scenery ideas.

###### **Research Projects:**

- a. The April 19<sup>th</sup> Cannon Ball. A 6lb shot. Matt announced that George Quintal will be publishing results soon that will be beneficial to Wilmington Town Museum.

###### **Upcoming Events:**

- a. Matt mentioned that the High School History Class is still interested in a field trip as was possible library and high school student internships.
- b. He announced a “Nature Hike” in collaboration with The Library and Parks & Recreation. Also, a possible Yoga class.
- c. Matt also mentioned an idea to have a Boys Scouts of America Merit Badge Class by inviting the scouts to the museum to achieve their history merit badge requirements.

- d. Matt announced that L3 Harris Technologies has reached out to the Commission to assist with the carriage house clean out. It was discussed to first check to see what the liabilities are with safety and any other issues. It was also suggested to check with Temporary Town Manager Lou Cimaglia and Town Counsel for their advice and approval.
- e. Matt finally announced that he was working with Temporary Town Manager for the next Veterans Coffee Social.

#### **Library Projects:**

- a. Matt mentioned the Land Acknowledgement Agreement was still ongoing.
- b. The Bookshelf Exhibition was discussed, as was ideas for displays.

#### **Carraige House / Public Building News:**

#### **Museum Visitors:**

- a. Visitor: Total: 15

#### **Social Media:**

- a. Social media: Instagram had 94 followers (up by 5), Facebook had 273 followers (up by 4) and Twitter had 321 followers (up by 7).

#### **Artifact of the Month:**

- a. A Spinning Wheel Flax from the 1700's – 1800's. The group discussed the many uses of spinning wheels. Bonny and Doug Smith performed the restoration on this artifact.

#### **2. Research Presentation – Joe Jackson**

- a. Joe mentioned that “This day in Wilmington” is ongoing.
- b. He also mentioned that the Town Hall Vault digitization would be moved to the summer.

#### **3. Correspondence: None.**

#### **4. Demo Permits: None.**

#### **5. Artifact of the Month: Discussed under Curators Report.**

#### **6. Other: Nothing to report.**

#### **7. Public Comment: None.**

#### **V. For Future Consideration:**

1. Historic Plaque Policy: Not Discussed.
2. Historic Home Inventory Project: Not Discussed.
3. Carraige House Cleanout: Discussed under Curators Report.
4. 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Wilmington: Not discussed.
5. Yearbook Distribution Project: Not Discussed.
6. More Events held at the museum in 2024: Not discussed.
7. Other: None.

Bonny asked for a motion to adjourn.

Joe Jackson made a motion to adjourn – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Karin Bloom

Meeting Adjourned at 8:57 pm

