

Kingston Historical Commission

Minutes

March 8, 2023

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in Room 203.

Members present: Craig Dalton, Dave McKee, John Bartlett, Tom Vendetti, Lynne Carreiro, Ken Brack

Members absent: Jim McKenna **Guests:** None

1. Review Minutes of previous meeting. John motioned to accept as amended, Dave seconded, unanimous.

2. Pay Bills. Discussion of getting an estimate to print four copies of recent historic homes inventory survey from Commission budget. More than 100 homes were documented and Craig expects about 300 pages in color. Members supported Craig looing into the printing cost.

3. Mail: None

New Business:

4. Lake Street culvert area survey.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission plans to do an archaeological survey near Forge Pond related to the proposed culvert construction on Lake Street. There are concerns about the drainage system there. Members agreed with Craig to send a letter to the Conservation Commission supporting the MHC survey.

Continuing Business

5. Tree work in the Old Burying Ground. Discussion of approaches and funding sources to remove older distressed trees. Craig reported state funding may be available for combined gravestone restoration and tree work next year. Money from a town fund meant for OBG upkeep may be used as collateral for a grant, possibly along with Community Preservation Grant funds, which may be reimbursed, he said. Meanwhile, Tom suggested the Commission approach Streets Superintendent Paul Basler about cutting dead trees this year.

Kingston resident Dave Pepe is willing to pay for restoring Major John Bradford grave, Tom said, which may be done in April. The gravestone of Maj. Bradford's wife also needs restoration. Both jobs are expected to cost about \$500-\$600 each.

6. Update on CPC submissions for town meeting. Dave previewed the CPC's scheduled March 9 meeting and said it appears there is enough in the budget for four slated historical projects. Those include restoration of the Powder House Adams Center repairs, and Evergreen Cemetery gravestones, and Civil War graves restoration. Craig asked Ken to post Commission members meeting during the CPC session March 9 as we may have a quorum there.

Craig also said he would ask the CPC whether they believe funding is viable for a pamphlet about the Hall Conservation Area, with cultural information on how Native Americans lived in the area. Concerns have been raised as to whether a booklet would align with the Wampanoag tribe's preservation interests or encourage pot hunters to the area.

7. Update on Kingston 300 book project. Ken and Tom mentioned recent contacts the group is making. Members will invite the public and content contributors to an open house scheduled for May 18 at the Adams Center.

8. Update on 300th Anniversary Committee. John said Selectmen have authorized having six members on the community soon. Those include a member of the Clerk's office, the KHC, Recreation, the Selectmen and two members at large.

Other business

Craig asked members to consider old items that have not been finished and compile a catch up list.

Dave asked about the former school house beside the old Anderson junkyard on Wapping Road, and whether the property is being developed.

Tom moved to adjourn at 7:22 pm, Ken seconded, unanimous.