

## Kingston Historical Commission

Minutes

June 16, 2023

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:12 am in Room 203.

**Members Present:** Craig Dalton, Dave McKee, John Bartlett, , Ken Brack

**Members absent:** Lynne Carreiro, Jim McKenna, Tom Vendetti

**Guests:** Michael Zimmerman, Jean Landis Naumann

1. Review minutes of previous meeting. John motioned to approve as amended, Dave seconded, unanimous.

2. Pay Bills: Daedalus Inc. invoice of \$18,000 for about 60 percent of the restoration work at the Old Burying Ground. The project is expected to be done by the end of June. Craig suggested applying \$15K from an account for the state grant covering some of the project, and another \$3K from a Community Preservation Commission account for the project. John motioned to make the payment as recommended, Dave seconded, unanimous.

NAPC Membership -- \$100 annual dues. Crai paid this with a credit card. Ken motioned to reimburse Crag for the dues, John seconded, unanimous.

New Business:

3. Professor Michael Zimmerman introduced a Ground Penetrating Radar project at the OBG. Zimmerman, an archaeology professor at Bridgewater State University, said the upcoming field school project at the OBG will seek to identify possible graves of paupers and slaves. He expects to be there with students the week of July 10, and said they will do post processing of results by the summer's end. Commission members have also asked Zimmerman to try and locate the location of a former cart path through the cemetery, and if possible, a foundation for the Powder House.

The equipment can take readings about three meters deep with a mid-range antenna, he said, which can be followed up with a stronger antenna probing deeper. He showed members the planned transects or grids they plan to do. GPR will find distinctive layers and objects underground, and a historic cart path may be indicated by a compaction of the layers, he suggested. Craig offered to write a letter of permission to do work in the OBG and to inform the Highway Department.

4. South Shore Irish Heritage Trail pamphlets. Jean Landis Naumann, of 84 Wolf Pond Road, told members that Jones River Village Historical Society members had heard about the trail and wanted to see if they can get involved. Craig mentioned three locations in Kingston connected to Irish heritage that the trail organizers are interested in, which is hoped will boost future tourism. The Major John Bradford House is also connected with local Irish history since the town's first Catholic Mass apparently was held in the house, but which apparently is not included in the trail.

Continuing Business

5. Letter to Selectmen on Thickly Settled Main Street District. Craig said he had not yet received a response to a letter the Commission recently sent with recommendations to help

reduce speeding. Members asked Selectmen to consider various measures along Main Street area, stressing the Kingston Center Historic District's character. Besides reducing the speed limit to 25 mph as some neighbors advocate, other suggestions include adding more crosswalks, signage, and stepping up enforcement of the speed limit.

6. Update on 300th Book Project. Ken said an open house May 18<sup>th</sup> was valuable bringing contributors and other residents together to share information and story ideas for the project.

7. Update on 300th Anniversary Committee. John said the committee is checking what other communities have done in recent years and the projected costs for events. There are currently seven members with several openings.

8. JRVHS President Carol Anderson is looking for volunteer groups to host a Bradford House breakfast, which have resumed. Members discussed some possible dates.

#### Other Business:

9. Appoint Community Preservation Commission representative. John motioned to reappoint Dave McKee as the Commission's representative for a year, Craig seconded, 3-0 unanimous with Dave abstaining. In a related matter, Dave said CPC members suggest that Commission members streamline a description of Kingston's historic structures that are currently included in a section of the Kingston's Community Preservation Plan. Members will look again for possible trimming for the July meeting.

10. Demolition permit, 23 Spruce Street in Rocky Nook. Several members had difficulty finding the house. Craig will write the owner seeking more clarification.

John motioned to adjourn at 10:30 am, Ken seconded, unanimous.