

Princeton Historical Commission

Minutes for October 15, 2020

Attendees: Matthew Lindberg - chair, Larry Todd - clerk, Jane Morrisson, Joyce Anderson, alternate, potential member Amy Holwell.

The meeting was held online and opened by Matt at 7:04pm.

Amy Holwell was asked by Matt to tell us a little about herself. She has been a resident of Princeton for 7 years, was previously a teacher, and has an antiques business, Oldfield Society, with a booth at Hunt and Gather. She has applied to be a member of the Historical Commission and the Cemetery Commission.

A motion was made and approved unanimously to accept the meeting minutes from 9/17/20 as written. Joyce Anderson had some comments for the document regarding the Civil War Plaques which she will forward after the meeting.

Civil war plaques: Matt told the Select Board the existing plaques should be preserved, but a location has not yet been identified. Joyce suggested the Highway Barn. The plaques are on pallets beside the Town Hall but it is not possible to get them into the basement per Phil Connors as they are too large and extremely heavy. Larry was in contact with Bud Brooks of the Historical Society who suggested perhaps they could be stored in someone's barn. Matt will follow up.

Matt asked if he should forward Carl's memo on the preservation of the plaques to the Select Board. Joyce agreed and thought the costs should be added. It was noted that the plaques should be stored in a temperature-controlled area. As the company working on the Bagg Hall renovations is a historic preservation company, perhaps someone there may have some idea of where to get the plaques replicated for lower cost. Larry will contact the architect.

Matt announced the Friends of Mechanics Hall are having an outdoor meeting at Sawyer's Field on 10/17 at 10:00 a.m. As it seems the renovation of the hall will be accomplished by Red Cardinal, should the Friends open up more broadly into a village improvement society. Joyce suggested we should follow the renovations and let Red Cardinal know how strongly we feel about preservation. Red Cardinal has been in contact with the friends group.

Matt suggested we should brainstorm on projects for the commission. Joyce suggested that the stone wall around Meetinghouse Cemetery needed repair. We

should get 3 estimates to see what the potential costs would be. Matt was wondering about the mill remains on Gleason Road and Joyce mentioned that signage would be good to have. It may be private property in which case owners may not want people stopping. Joyce mentioned a National Register nomination for East Princeton Village which includes 129 Gleason Road. She will forward a copy to us after the meeting.

Amy Holwell asked about our budget which is \$1,500 and is a “use it or lose it” situation. Joyce said there should be money put aside for gravestone restoration and could it be used to repair the stone walls in the Meetinghouse Hill Cemetery. Matt suggested there might be money left from the TPS playground available to be used for another playground. Larry suggested the Commission communicate with the Cemetery Commission about the stone walls.

Amy Holwell, who is also considering the Cemetery Commission, has been invited to their meeting on Monday and will bring up the stone wall issue.

The next meeting will be on November 19 at 7pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Morrisson, substitute clerk

