**Princeton Historical Commission**

**Minutes for November 19, 2020**

Attendees: Matthew Lindberg - chair, Carl Soderberg - vice-chair

Larry Todd - clerk, Jane Morrisson, Joyce Anderson, alternate

The meeting was held online and opened by Matt at 7:06pm.

A Motion was made and approved unanimously to accept the meeting minutes from 10/15/20, with one spelling correction..

Amy Holwell, who attended our last meeting out of interest in the commission has joined the cemetery commission as well as the town decorating committee.

Civil war plaques:

Matt spoke with Bud Brooks at the historical society and Bud had no suggestions regarding storage of the old plaques. Larry will call the highway department to ask if they can store them.

Larry spoke with Lynne Spencer, a preservation architect who is part of the firm that did the restoration work on Bagg Hall. She is willing to participate in a zoom call with the commission to discuss options for replacing the plaques. We did not make a decision about this.

Matt sent the memo regarding the recommendation of the commission to replicate the plaques, including estimate of cost, to the selectboard. He spoke with Karen Cruise and she said it could be included in the 5 year plan they are preparing.

Carl will look into getting the plaques scanned so we will have a digital image as a resource. He will let us know the cost.

Princeton town common:

Matt sent us all copies of information about the common, including a writeup entitled “Town Common Preservation Guideline” with background notes as well as “policy on significant changes regarding the grounds of the town government campus and common.”

Joyce referenced conversations with Karen Cruise several years ago and questioned if there was agreement on a policy. There is concern that changes to the common will occur, as in stray trees growing up, if there is not a clear policy that is followed. Can the commission use the existing written material as a starting point and work with the selectboard to clarify and improve the statement ?

Karen Cruise suggested some members of the commission attend a meeting of the selectboard to talk about this. Matt will speak with Karen to set this up.

National Historic District on Worcester road:

Joyce said the area including the Boylston Villa and the former home of Dr. Howard were previously suggested as a national historic district but the owners at that time had no interest. Both properties have recently sold to new owners and Joyce will approach them to see if they have an interest. The commission would hire a consultant to write the application and most of the cost would be covered by the property owners.

East Princeton; site of chair factories:

Matt walked the area recently and liked the historic character there. Carl brought up a MASS GIS map of the area which shows the land is under DCR. Matt and Larry noted that on the town assessors map the land is labeled with the name Stuart; we need to confirm it is DCR land. There is also a small triangle of land at the end of the abandoned street on Main street which could be an access from the sidewalk to the land below on Gleason road. Some signage about the history of the area would be a good project.

The commission is still looking for a new member. Joyce will call Mickey Spillane and ask if he is interested.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, December 17 at 7pm. It will be a remote meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Todd, clerk