

## Princeton Historical Commission

June 16, 2022

Attendees: Matthew Lindberg - chair, Carl Soderberg - vice chair, Larry Todd - clerk, Tom Kokernak.

The meeting opened at 7:03 pm.

The meeting minutes of 4/28/22 and 5/26/22 were approved as written.

**Civil War Plaques:** Matt posted a notice on Next Door asking descendants of the names on the plaques to consider a dedication; he is waiting for responses.

There was discussion of our funds. There is \$3321 in our donations account and Matt will check with Jenny to ask if there is any restriction on how we use the money since we don't know the purpose of some donations. Matt suggested we first use the \$1500 we will have in our operating budget on July 1 as this is the annual amount from the town.

**Town Pound:** Carl did contact Nate and he needs to look at the access path before he will give a cost for the needed work. A lot of poison ivy has grown again and Carl suggested we need to do maintenance once or twice a year, perhaps as a volunteer group.

**Trees on the common:** Sherry forwarded a message to Matt from the town tree warden asking if 3 dead/diseased trees could be cut down. Matt sent photos of the trees. After discussion a motion was made and approved to recommend the trees be removed.

Carl gave a brief update regarding the public safety committee; there have been no recent meetings as they are waiting for revised plans from the architects. The committee is discussing a public event with perhaps a cookout to get people in town to do a walk-through of the police and fire buildings to see the current conditions.

**Library Clock Tower "cap":** Larry spoke with Jane Weisman, chair of the library trustees, and she said if the metal piece they removed was not repaired she would have it stored in the library basement as an artifact as we requested.

**Bagg Hall Weathervane:** Larry spoke with Phil Conners about this and Phil said only one half of one letter (the W became a V) was missing and the weathervane appears to be stable, so there is no urgency to this possible repair.

**Materials in the Historical Commission file cabinet in Bagg Hall:** the commission has one 5-drawer file upstairs in Bagg Hall. There was discussion about this and Matt will contact Nate, the town clerk, to ask if our commission should play some role in the review of older documents on file in Bagg Hall. Could there be funds available from the state archivist's office for preservation ?

Nate was looking for submissions for his town news and Tom offered to write something about the civil war plaques.

Tom said Joyce Anderson offered to work with him researching the town farm and paupers' graves. Tom gave an update on what he has found and will keep working with Joyce.

Tom asked if our commission has any role in reviewing plans by homeowners who want to renovate older homes in town. There is currently no mechanism in place and the National Historic Districts provide no review or protection.

Could our commission act as a resource for people seeking to maintain a historic property ? Perhaps the Mass Historic commission has some pertinent information.

Carl mentioned a book by Eric Sloan that is a reference in this regard; "Vanishing Landscapes".

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm; the next meeting (remote) is scheduled for Thursday, July 14 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted, Larry Todd, clerk

