

Historical Commission – Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, March 1, 2018

The Historical Commission met on Thursday, March 1, 2018 at Tyringham Town Hall. Present were Alice Hale (Chair), Ann Gallo, Mark Curtin, Catherine Mardula, Maggie Howard, Peter Charpentier.

1. February 1st, 2017 minutes were approved.
2. Sampler update: Peter has been unable to get the samplers finished and returned to Tyringham because of unknown restorer issues. Peter has volunteered to go down to PA and pick up the samplers if he is unsuccessful in getting them sent back to Tyringham. Discussion ensued on where the samplers could be sent if they are indeed not fully restored or framed. Mark suggested contacting Charlie Flint with restoration ideas. The HC would just like the samplers returned.
3. Pat Reed's upcoming visit will be April 30, 2018 at which time she will continue organizing and digitizing HC materials. Maggie Howard offered to do a potluck if Nini is unable. Pat Reed always would like to have one person with her to help while cataloging. Catherine Mardula offered to help. Others will also commit once they look at their schedules.
4. Schoolhouse Historical Register. Alice brought a letter from the Commonwealth of MA to Nini regarding Tyringham's Center School on 2 Church Road as it relates to becoming part of the Historical Register. They determined that under criteria A & C at the local level it is indeed eligible for nomination.
 - a. Preparation of National Register form
 - i. Neil Larson's cost for a similar document for the Tyringham library cost roughly \$2700. The HC has funds to cover this cost.
 - a. HC committed Nini to contacting Neil Larson for an estimate.
 - b. Digitizing historical tapes update
 - i. Ann reported half are digitized.
 - ii. Maggie is transferring transcribed tapes to a thumb drive.
5. Bidwell House display for July & Arts Festival
 - a. Conversation about Bidwell display was tabled and to be taken up at next meeting.
 - b. HC Agreed to contribute some items to the Tyringham Arts Festival
 - i. Locations for HC festival display
 1. Library
 2. Upstairs of town hall
 - c. Discussion on what pieces to possibly include
 - i. Kitson
 - ii. Ryan Davis has an artist's materials (Alice said man on bicycle/Jan deRuth.
 - iii. Discussion about putting Shaker pieces in the arts festival
 1. Peter to contact Rebecca Honig
 - iv. More discussion at next HC is needed.

6. Discussed Selectmen's desire to form committee to determine future use of schoolhouse.
 - a. Mark reported on discussion at Selectmen's meeting regarding status of schoolhouse. Town is moving forward. First step is to form a committee to discuss usage for schoolhouse. Town obtaining a quote on restoring the exterior from company who restored the library/post office. A lot of what-if's/next steps but select board is all for the restoration. Mark mentioned at the Selectmen's meeting that we are moving forward with the schoolhouse being a part of the national register. They are aware that there is urgency to move forward on schoolhouse project based on this pending historical designation.
 - b. Conversation about how to obtain a list from National Register on what we can and cannot do to restore the schoolhouse both on the interior and exterior.
 - c. Carol volunteered to call Jim Consolati and have the announcement for a schoolhouse committee posted on TEBB to reach more Tyringham residents.
7. Cataloging and safe storage of HC items in schoolhouse update
 - a. Mark Curtin started cataloging with Amy Fennelly. Photographs measurements and descriptions were made. Some items have been safely stored in bins. Heat has been on over the winter and it's working well enough. Conversation ensued on how to keep the materials safe in the schoolhouse. Items still remain vulnerable. Town bought a "pod" which could be used to hold the HC items during the schoolhouse renovation. Weights and measures remain in schoolhouse and the hope is to have them brought back to the town hall. Conversation about putting priority on cleaning out police items currently stored in the schoolhouse.
8. Any other business
 - a. Alice Hale – Brought a letter from Clint Elliott resigning from the Historical Commission after having served for over 40 years. He intends to return to the private sector and is pleased to remain "Chairman Emeritus".
 - b. Conversation about if there is a weaver in Tyringham for a community piece for the Tyringham Arts Festival. Mark mentioned someone from Monterey.
 - c. Peter brought flyers from "Historical Deerfield", an organization in MA. Many interesting articles. They give free lectures.
 - d. Carol asked if we were pursuing asking other towns how they are handling their historical items. We had spoken in the past with Barbara Allen from Stockbridge and Barbara Swan from Monterey.
9. Mark motioned to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Peter.