

Historical Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 5 PM
Approved: Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Present: Ann Gallo, Carol Hardy-Fanta, Jillian Bergman, Catherine Mardula, selectman Jim Consolati

Ann Gallo called the meeting to order at 5:02pm. Minutes from our previous meeting were read and approved.

Jim Consolati provided an update on the schoolhouse construction project. There have been a few delays with getting started due to COVID as well as the exterior of the building testing positive for lead paint. The town expects a report from Bradley Architects to be ready by the end of February. At this point, they will have a better sense of the construction timeline and the cost and be ready to start bidding out various portions of the project. Their original plan to pursue funding by becoming a green community was stalled due to lack of available private land for solar projects; however, the town stabilization fund has a few hundred thousand dollars in it that could be used to help fund the schoolhouse project. Their goal is to make sure the outside of the building is secure before moving on to the inside. Some ideas the town has been thinking about for the schoolhouse include moving the post office and using the rest of 118 Main Road for library restrooms or some other purpose, adding some extra office space outside the town hall, and creating a climate-controlled, fireproof basement for the town archives. However, it is clear that people in Tyringham are behind using the schoolhouse for some historical purpose, so space for storing and/or displaying town artifacts will very likely be included in the finished product. Carol Hardy-Fanta inquired about the town applying for a Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF) grant, and Jim said the town would look into it.

After Jim's departure, the commission briefly discussed a national register plaque for the schoolhouse (tabled until after schoolhouse construction is complete) and potential repatriation of Native American artifacts (tabled until the next meeting when Deborah Coy is present). Ann Gallo shared that more funding is needed to help transcribe the Women of Tyringham interviews, so we will look into moving some of our budget for this fiscal year into the gift account for this purpose.

Our next meeting will take place over Zoom on March 8, 2022 at 5pm. Ann Gallo made a motion to close the meeting at 5:44pm and all remaining members seconded.