

Historical Commission

Meeting of April 6th, 2017

The Historical Commission met on Thursday, April 6th 2017 in the Town Hall Meeting Room. The following were present: Alice Hale (Chair), Mark Curtin, Nini Gilder, Maggie Howard, Peter Charpentier and Sarah Hudson. Ann Gallo also joined us.

Item 1. We discussed the status of the **contents of the Library** which are now being stored in the Town Hall, back stage. Charles Flint, antiques expert and appraiser, (and Mrs. Flint) were present for this discussion, at Mark Curtin's initiative. Mark is concerned, as we all are, about the wellbeing of fragile items which may now be at the mercy of poor climate and weather conditions. Reminding us that "we are the keepers of history and objects", Charlie Flint gave us a thorough briefing on how to care for antiquities made of various substances ranging from textiles to stonewear to leather, to weapons, to paper, wood and glass. Mr. Flint gave us very useful and practical suggestions on how to clean and preserve such items, which are described in a handout he gave us. He also provided us with a list of restorers, bookbinders and the like, that are available in our area. His general advice for most items: "Keep it high and dry." He also recommended that we acquire a dehumidifier. We are grateful to Charlie Flint for speaking with us, and for his offer to come back to help when we are ready to decide on which items deserve special attention and protection. Thanks also to Mark for flagging this issue.

Item 2, We also discussed the ***Tyringham Topics scanning project***, and the gist of the meeting of Hop Brook Club and Historical Commission members with Jake Sadow, of the Boston Public Library. This meeting was held on April 6th at 11 AM, at Nini Gilder's home.

Sadow is a "statewide digitization assistant" and project archivist on a Boston Public Library project that offers digitization and storage services, free of charge. He travels to the site, and without getting involved in the substance of the archives, he provides advice on how to organize material and present it for digitalization. The work is done in Boston, using high-quality cameras and lenses. He shoots in color, but preferably only "where color matters". He is also able to shoot bound volumes through the use of a cradle stand and

two cameras. He explained that the Boston Library is interested in small town histories such as the *Topics* can provide. The more the better, he says, because these town stories can strengthen one another.

He took a number of *Topics* back to Boston, requesting us to send him information as to the Topics' creator, publisher, and other information. He will email us his precise needs.

Item 3. Finally, we discussed the Historical Commission exhibit at Bidwell Museum Township #1 Day in July 2017. Our subject will likely be historic Tyringham roads, and we were each assigned a road to research.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

submitted,

Howard, Clerk

Respectfully

Maggie