

## **Historical Commission – Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017**

The Historical Commission met on Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 in the School House. Present were Alice Hale (Chair), Clint Elliott, Ann Gallo, Mark Curtin, Carol Hardy-Fanta, Nini Gilder, Maggie Howard, Sarah Hudson, Peter Charpentier.

### **1. Updates**

- a. Rosina Cannon Samplers Update - Peter reported that the samplers, currently being restored by Ruth Baumann in PA are near completion. He passed around printed photos in their current condition. Great work being done. They should arrive via mail relatively soon. Discussion ensued on how to frame and display behind lock and key and perhaps nailed to a wall, once the samplers return to Tyringham.
- b. Simmons Bible – Maggie reported that her original contact at Lancaster, PA Historical Society was away at the time of her call. The individual who handled the call said they were not interested. Nini followed up with an email with photographs of the Bible as a way to entice the Society to reconsider taking the Bible. Waiting for a response.
- c. Kent Papers – Nini to pursue
- d. Tyringham Schoolhouse – Mark reported the Selectman will turn on the heat for the entire building for the winter. Date, tbd. The Selectmen also support the preservation of the schoolhouse and within the year will be making renovations both to the interior and exterior of the building. The work most likely will be done by the firm who renovated the town library. Sarah is in charge of rodent abatement in the schoolhouse with Mark helping when needed. She has already set a number of traps with success.
- e. Schoolhouse Application to MA Historical Commission and the National Register – Nini, Carol and Mark have been involved with the application including text and photographs. The application, Form B, for the MA Historical Commission to list the schoolhouse on the National Registry was submitted this past Tuesday, October 31, 2017. A brief discussion ensued regarding similar schoolhouses that were built within the same time frame as Tyringham's. These were located in Lenoxdale and Glendale. Both of those schoolhouses are no longer in existence. There was a positive feeling that our application would be accepted.

### **2. Preservation of Native American Artifacts – Charlie Flint developments**

Charlie Flint and Mark met to review the artifacts and it was determined that none of them were for ceremonial or burial purposes. Charlie will help with recommendations on preservation and display. Some items have already been stored in cloth/cotton bags.

Mark brought up the need for the display case with the town's weights and measures paraphernalia to be moved from its current location in the schoolhouse to the Town Hall on the first floor against the wall next to the Town Clerk's office. Nini made a motion to go forward with this move and it was approved unanimously. Mark will coordinate.

### **3. Oral History Project Update** – Ann reported that she has purchased an inexpensive devise to transfer the cassette tapes of interviews to a digital format. At that point transcription

software will be needed to get the tapes in a printed format. Judith Monachina from Great Barrington will be advising on these steps.

4. **Need for appointment of new Clerk** – Maggie Howard stepped down as Clerk of the Historical Commission. Her duties will now be split with Mark Curtin handling the formal submissions of the Historical Commission's Agendas and announcements. Ann Gallo will be the scribe, taking meeting minutes. Carol Hardy-Fanta and Mark will oversee genealogy and ancestry. Clint Elliott officially resigned from the Historical Commission and requested the title of Chairman Emeritus. He will continue to participate as an active voice with the HC.
5. **Misc. Extra's** –
  - a. Historical Items in the town library – a discussion ensued regarding the safety of quite a few historical artifacts currently displayed in the town library. The overall view was the items needed a more secure home in a locked place. Nini asked Mark to determine what items in the library should be moved to a more secure location, possibly the schoolhouse. Mark will investigate. Mark responded that the gun and saber currently hanging on the library wall should be removed, cleaned and stored elsewhere to avoid further deterioration. Overall both the library and schoolhouse have numerous artifacts that must be catalogued, photographed, preserved and possibly displayed. Carol volunteered to help with this project.
  - b. Alice Hale and the Hale family graciously donated an 1858 Walling Map of Berkshire County, with numerous details noted on the Tyringham portion of the map. The map was photographed by Nini, before being rolled and properly stored in an acid-free, cotton cloth. Discussion ensued about small restoration needed on the map as well as where and how to display it. Nini to investigate.
  - c. Discussion regarding establishing a Tyringham Historical Society. Mark Curtin to research.
  - d. Peter reported that members of the Historical Commission have been invited to tour the Seed House on Main Road, owned by the Honig-Briggs clan. Date tbd.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the venue to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Gallo, Co-Clerk