Meeting minutes for

Groton Historical Commission

December 7, 2017

Groton Town Hall

7PM

Attendees: Paul Keen, Michael LaTerz, George Wheatley, Bob DeGroot

Absent: Allen King, Michael Danti

Guests: Gary Shepherd, Michael Roberts, Greg Fishbone

Meeting Called to order at 6:59PM

Gary Shepherd provided an update on the plans for Prescott House on Old Ayer Road in Groton. The committee asked whether Indian Hill had plans to demolish the house. Gary said there are no plans to demolish the Oliver Prescott House at this time.

Michael Roberts provide an update on the black paint highlighting the letters on the milestones recently restored throughout Groton. After extensive research, Michael found out that the paint was being eroded by the salt spray caused during winter plowing. He recommended that the committee not spend any additional funds to repaint. There is no paint available at this time that will not be affected in the same way.

 Greg Fishbone of Main St in Groton addressed the committee about a recently discovered PRIV on his property. This PRIV exists on the front corner of his home immediately adjacent to the Groton Library. For years this feature had been covered by plywood covered with topsoil. The plywood recently gave way causing the turn on top to cave into the PRIV. Greg showed the committee pictures of the feature. The committee agreed to ask committee member Michael Danti to inspect the feature for additional details.

Bob DeGroot provided an update on the CPA applications currently being considered by the Groton CPC. In particular, he discussed the JD Poor mural restoration. There is a CPA funding application made by the Groton Historical Society which proposes to remove two of the JD Poor murals currently located at the Oliver Prescott House and relocate them to the newly constructed Groton Inn. Al Collins, a member of the committee sponsoring this application, asked the Groton Historical Commission to declare these murals historically significant, and to provide a letter of support for the project. The following motion was made by Michael LaTerz:

“The JD Poor murals currently located at the Oliver Prescott House are of historical significance and worthy of preservation.” George Wheatley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

The committee agreed to invite Al Collins to the next HistComm meeting to provide details on this CPA application before issuing a letter of support.

Michael LaTerz provided an update on the National Register nomination project for the Old Meeting House. Initial draft is complete. An invoice will be available at the next meeting for the committee to sign.

The committee agrees to contact Dawn Dunbar to arrange for the HistComm to address the BOS regarding moving the Prescott Stone from its current location on Farmers Row to a new location next to Town Hall.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the need to extend the current demolition delay bylaw. Currently the demotion delay is 6 months. The committee will begin taking steps to extend this to a minimum of twelve months and possibly as much as 18 months. The committee agrees to contact the MHC for further direction.

Paul Keen makes a motion to adjourn. George Wheatley seconds. Motion carries by a unanimous decision 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM.

Next meeting is planned for Jan 11 2018.