Groton Historical Commission

January 11, 2018

Groton Town Hall

7PM

Attending: Michael Danti, Michael LaTerz, George Wheatley, Paul Keen, Bob DeGroot

Absent: Allen King

Guest: Al Collins-Groton Historical Society

Meeting was called to order at 7:02PM ET by chair Bob DeGroot

Al Collins representing the Groton Historical Society, provided a description of the project currently being proposed to the Groton CPC for funding.  Project proposes to secure two of the existing murals in the Prescott House on Old Ayer Road.  These were painted by JD Poor, nephew of Rufus Porter in the early 1800's.  These murals are representative of an artistic period in Northern New England during the late 1700's and early mid 1800s where "nomadic" painters would, in exchange for room, board, and hourly work, would paint unique murals in the homes of their host.

This application seeks to secure funding which will allow the Groton Historical Society to remove the two most well-preserved murals that currently exist in Prescott House.  The Indian Hill project has decided to donate these murals to the Historical Society with the understanding that the Society will fund the removal and any preservation of these pieces.  The owners of the new Groton Inn have offered to display these in the main part of the Inn.  Al described to HistComm how the murals would be secured, moved, and ultimately relocated to the Groton Inn.  Al was seeking a letter of support from HistComm for this project. HistComm found these pieces to be historically significant in their previous meeting on 7 December 2017.

The Committee developed the following language in response to Al's request:

" Furthermore, the Historical Commission approves the plan to preserve and protect the murals currently located in the Oliver Prescott House. These will remain within the Town of Groton in a place of cultural significance under the stewardship of the Groton history Center. The Historical Commission supports the preliminary plan for the relocation of these murals."

A motion to use this language in the committee’s letter of support was made by Michael LaTerz. Motion was seconded by Michael Danti.  There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 4-0-1 vote with George Wheatley abstaining.

The committee then took up the matter of 0 West Main Street.  Previously the committee had been asked to determine the historical significance of this building.  The committee had previously determined the property to not be of historic significance. The committee discussed the goal of recent Conservation Commission inquiries regarding the historic nature of this property.  Apparently, there is interest in razing this home and potentially turning the entire parcel into a memorial park.

Michael Danti provided an overview of the recently discovered PRIV located on the Greg Fishbone property on Main St in downtown Groton. This feature was discovered by Mr. Fishbone in late 2017 when its cover caved in near the northeast corner of the house. Michael inspected the feature with Mr. Fishbone.  he determined it to be historically significant, and worthy of documentation.  Michael said the feature dates to the mid 1800's and is somewhat unique in design.  The committee agree to conduct documentation efforts during the spring of 2018.

Bob DeGroot provided the committee with an overview of the currently CPA applications the CPC is reviewing which have historic basis.

Michael LaTerz made a request on behalf of the Old Meeting House Committee for a letter of support for their current application for CPA funding. The committee will take this up at their next meeting.

Items 7-10 on the agenda were continued to the next meeting.

George Wheatley made a motion to adjourn.  Michael LaTerz seconded the motion.  Motion passed by unanimous vote 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 9PM