

Groton Historical Commission
Virtual meeting Minutes
26 May 2021
First meeting of the GHC since January 2020

Present: Michael Danti, Michael LeTerz, George Wheatley, Allen King, Aubrey Theall, Bob DeGroot
Guests: Ginger Vollmar

1. Meeting called to order at 7:04PM
2. Aubrey Theall is introduced as the newest member of the GHC.
3. Agenda changes: Mike LeTerz asks to add National Historic Register nomination project for the Old Meeting House
 - Allen King commented that the clock in the steeple of the Old Meeting House is not working. Gear issues that may require the clock to be rebuilt.
4. Prescott Stone: George Wheatley; The stone has suffered from exposure to the elements. Letters are fading badly.
 - Michael Danti suggests that the committee first check with MHC for guidance on best practices for situations like this.
 - The committee discussed covering the stone for now and looking into whether or not line drawings could be made, or if re-etching could be done.
5. Committee asks for this to be removed from the agenda for now.
6. Bob presents the demolition permit application for the property at 1 Longley Road. The owner has filed this application in order to remove an old dilapidated barn on the property. The committee reviewed a photo of the structure.
 - Motion was made by George Wheatley to approve the application for demolition for this structure. Mike LeTerz seconded. No further discussion. Motion carried by a unanimous vote 5-0.
7. Allen King lead a discussion around the use of metal detectors in Groton. Apparently there is one person that's often seen around parts of Town Center that has asked permission to to use his metal detector on Town property. The committee discussed creating an ordinance around the use of metal detectors on Town property. Michael, Michael and Allen agree to research further and to develop some draft language for this ordinance.
8. Michael Danti continued a discussion around the creation of a database or a series of databases for historic information in the Town. Suggested the committee consider The Old Burying Ground for this project. He commented that a condition assessment of the site needs to be done. Headstones are tipping over and the surrounding retaining wall is in tough shape. Michael said a Physical Restoration study for The Old Burying Ground would. be a good idea.
9. Discussion about the preservation of historic documents at the Groton History Center was continued until the next meeting.

10. Other topics: Priest House-possible CPA application to partially fund restoration activities.

11. Motion Made by Michael LeTerz to formally recommend Aubrey Theall to the Groton Select Board as a new member of the Groton Historical Commission. Allen King seconds. No discussion. Motion carries by a unanimous vote 5-0.

Mike Leterz makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. George Wheatly seconds. Motion carries by a unanimous vote 5-0. Meeting is adjourned at 8:26pm. Next meeting will be 7 July.