Groton Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2022

Virtual Meeting

7PM

In Attendance: Aubrey Theall, George Wheatley, Allen King, Joshua Vollmar, Bob DeGroot

Absent: Michael LaTerz, Michael Danti

Guest: Bob Anderson

1. Meeting called to order at 7:16PM

2. Report from Michael Danti is continued.

3. Prescott House update: Aubrey: Roof inspection done recently with Richard Chilcoat, and a local roofer.  They determine that the roof is near the end of its useful life; probably 2-3 years left. No obvious water intrusion is observed. Bob Anderson informs the committee that Groton Hill's benefactor has offered to fund the demolition of Prescott House. Groton Hill has determined that they do not have the revenues needed to preserve the home; feels the only option is demolition.

Histcomm members offer comments: Joshua is opposed to demolition, Allen has no comments, Aubrey is opposed, Bob DeGroot is opposed.  Bob Anderson comments that his committee has looked into giving the house away, and many other options.  In their view, none were practical. Histcomm asks if the demolition money that's been pledged can be redirected for preservation.  Bob Anderson said no, they can't.  Bob Anderson indicated that his committee is planning to move forward with demolition soon as the availability of funding from their benefactor is time sensitive. Joshua warns that Groton Hill does not want the bad PR that will come from the demo of Prescott House. Aubrey suggests a public hearing ASAP.

Anna Eliot joins the meeting.  She suggests an application to CPC to request funding for a feasibility study to determine options for preservation of Prescott House. Anna asks the timeframe for demolition.  Bob Anderson indicates sometime in the next 1-2 months.

4. Old Meeting House update: Allen describes recent repair work on one of the clock faces. Describes the activities around Marion Stoddard Day, and a recent plaque unveiling for the National Register designation.

5. Report on Prescott Stone is continued b/c George is having technical problems with his Zoom connection.

6. New Topics: Committee discusses possible public hearing on Prescott House, and the need to look into current demolition delay status of this property.

7. New Business: Aubrey suggests that we create a job description for the Vice Chair role on HistComm. Committee agrees.

8. Motion to adjourn made by Allen King, second by Joshua Vollmar.  Roll call vote is unanimous 5-0 in favor.  Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.