Meeting Minutes

Groton Historical Commission

September 14, 2022

Virtual meeting

Attendees: George Wheatley, Michael Danti, Michael LaTerz, Aubrey Theall, Allen King, Joshua Vollmar, Bob DeGroot

Guests: Jim Matozzi, Greg Sheldon

1. Meeting called to order at 7:03PM

2. Greg Sheldon presents to HistComm: Greg is Chair of the Destination Groton Committee. Discussed the collection of Groton-related historic artifacts that Earl Carter has.  Wanted to find out if HistComm is interested in leading the effort to preserve Earl's collection. Committee is in favor of preservation.  Michael Danti points out that until this collection is in the public domain, HistComm can only act as an interested participant in the process until then.

Committee suggests the idea of forming a sub-committee to act in an advisory capacity; facilitator. Michael Danti reminds the committee that this is a private collection.  Our committee has a public role in this process, but until Earl Carter decides what he wants to do with this collection, HistComm can't take an active role in preservation.

3. Groton Historic Asset Inventory; Michael Danti- MFA has the silver collection from Old Meeting House. Michael is digitizing this collection now. Made by the likes of Jacob Hurd and Paul Revere. Long term loan between MFA and Old Meeting House.

Molly Foster is the new Archivist for the Old Meeting House.

4. Prescott House sub committee report; Aubrey Theall- He's been in touch with Mass Historic Commission, Trustees of the Reservation, Preservation Massachusetts, and Historic Massachusetts regarding historic preservations programs each may offer.

Trustees provided the most feedback of the four contacted.  They suggested we start by having a professional study of the house be performed.  Likely cost approx $30-$50k.

Aubrey also contacted the Groton History Center.  They supported HistComm's efforts but decided against formally participating in the preservation process. Also reached out to the Groton Historic District Commission.  No response from them yet. Michael Danti will help Aubrey assemble a scope of work for the professional study.

5. Old Meeting House update; Allen King- Bid packages for the window restoration work have been distributed.

$50k has been approved by State. Application has been submitted for an additional $15-20k in funding to cover the cost of restoration.

Deadline for the completion of this project needs to be June 30, 2023 or sooner based on the requirements of this funding grant.

6. Prescott Stone; George Wheatley- History Center members Carolyn Perkins, and Mrs Black are working to develop how they want the stone to be presented.

7. Mike LaTerz- He's been researching how the Town's charter defines the activities of the Historic Commission. He's looking for language that authorizes HistComm's existence.

Mike reminds the committee that we need to take down the histcomm open position ad on Town's website.

8. Aubrey makes a motion to adjourn. Allen King seconds. Motion carries by a unanimous roll call vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM