

Groton Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2023
Groton Town Hall

Present: Michael LaTerz, Aubrey Theall, Joshua Vollmar, Allen King, Bob DeGroot

Absent: Michael Danti

Guests: Do we include the names of people in the audience?

1. Meeting called to Order at 7PM
2. Prescott House subcommittee report-Aubrey Theall: Aubrey provided a detailed summary of Historical Commission's efforts to:

- understand the preservation options available for Prescott House,
- work with Groton Hill Music to determine their willingness to have Prescott House preserved,
- understand what, if any, interest Groton residents have in seeing this historic structure preserved

20-30 Groton residents were in the audience. Many responded to Aubrey's presentation with questions, comments, and suggestions. All were in favor of working to preserve Prescott House.

The Historic Commission received this note from Groton Hill Music prior to the meeting. It was read to the member of the committee, and the members of the public that attended this meeting>

Letter from Groton Hill Music

"Date: March 1, 2023

To: Town of Groton Historical Commission

From: Groton Hill Music, Inc.

Re: Statement for March 1, 2023 Historical Commission Meeting

To the Members of the Historical Commission, Groton Hill Music understands that you will be discussing the Prescott House at your public meeting on March 1, 2023. We offer the following official statement from our organization for you to read into the minutes of the meeting: Groton Hill Music is a 501(c)3 Not-For-Profit organization with a charitable mission of music education, performance, and community outreach. We are not able to fundraise for historic preservation. Prescott House is in the middle of a buffer zone for our music center with an Agricultural Preservation Restriction and it is not available for public access. We have done significant due diligence and explored various options related to the Prescott House. Relocating the house is not feasible and restoration costs are well over \$1M. We have been communicating with the Historical Commission for five years but no viable and funded solution has surfaced. If an appropriate, viable solution is identified, we are happy to review a comprehensive and funded proposal. Thank you."

3. Inventory of Historic Assets: Michael Danti- table until next meeting.

4. Old Meeting House update: Allen King- update on the efforts to renovate/preserve the main windows throughout the church. Restoration company is removing 4 windows at a time, rehabbing them, and re-installing them. Total project cost is approx \$180k of which \$70k came from the state.

5. Prescott Stone project: Bob- Design has been finalized by the Groton History Center. They are currently in negotiation w a stonemason for the proposed stone work. Spring project kickoff is planned.

6. Historic Commission web page update: Michael LaTerz- Michael provided an update on his efforts to work w Town to update Groton Historical Commission web presence. See attached documents from Michael's research of how other towns have described their historic commissions and his proposed updates to Groton's webpages.

7. Aids Attic: Michael LaTerz- located at 3 West Main St in Groton, this building sits next to the bridge connecting West Groton to Shirley, MA. It has been used for many purposes over

the years. Was recently purchased. New owner is evaluating how to use this property going forward. See attached document from Michael's research on this property.

8. Historic Commission files stored at Legion Hall: Michael LaTerz- Michael and Joshua moved these files from Legion Hall to the third floor storage area in Groton Town Hall in December 2022. Included in these records are a 1989 planning guide for Groton. Conversation about updating Sanford Johnson's 2007 historic property guide to include more properties.

9. Election of new officers: Bob DeGroot- Michael LaTerz nominated Aubrey Theall to be next chair of the Historic Commission. Allen King seconds. Aubrey confirms that he would be very happy to accept. Committee votes 5-0 in favor of having Aubrey Theall as next chair. Aubrey accepts the role, and continues the meeting. Committee agrees to vote on additional nominations until all members are present.

10. Any topics not anticipated within 48 hours of this meeting: None.

11. Joshua makes a motion to adjourn. Michael LaTerz seconds. Aubrey adjourns the meeting at 8:53pm. Next meeting scheduled for April 12.