Groton Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2023

Groton Town Hall

7:00 PM

1. Aubrey Theall called the meeting to order at 7:07pm.
2. Minutes of May meeting were accepted by unanimous vote. Will be forwarded to the Town Clerk for filing.
3. Aubrey Theall delivered Prescott House updates:
   1. 18 month demo delay clock is ticking.
   2. Discussion of an updated request for proposals for a historic structures report.
   3. Discussion of the need to raise funds for historic structures report. Revised RFP was discussed, feedback provided and will be issued, hopefully prior to next Historical Commission meeting.
   4. Real estate quasi "listing" (for movement of house), hopeful to have soon.
   5. Draft of Prescott House FAQ's were reviewed, will be sent to Gary Shepherd for review.
4. Inventory of Historic Assets, Michael Danti reports he continues to digitize material as time permits.
5. Inventory of Historical Commission Files. Michael LaTerz & Joshua Vollmar have begin inventorying what is there, they are about halfway through. Material is of varying value. Some is readily available elsewhere, some not worth keeping. There are maps related to Sanford Johnson's historical survey. They will meet again in about 2 weeks to continue. There are also documents in a vault at Town Hall that will be inventoried.
6. Old Meetinghouse Updates. Allen King not present. Michael Danti reports work continues on the windows and that the clock is presently malfunctioning, an attempt to repair is being made.
7. New member recruiting, filling Vice Chair and Secretary & alternate roles. Aubrey reached out to two candidates that have expressed past interest without a response. Aubrey Theall will draft a letter to the editor of the Groton Herald seeking interested citizens. The topic of student volunteers was also discussed, Michael LaTerz is leading this effort and is progressing on recruitment.
8. Maintenance of historical markers. Michael LaTerz has reached out to the Boy Scouts who may be willing to assist with maintenance. A CPC grant application for maintenance/repair will likely be pursued. May include the colonial era stone markers around town.
9. Prescott Stone installation was discussed. Expected to be complete shortly. Photos are on social media.
10. Cow Pond proposed development. Native American archeological sites in area? Confidential version of the Town's Archeological Study appears to be missing and we will need to locate or obtain a replacement. There was a discussion of what information from these maps should be provided relative to development and/or re-development of sites in town with elevated probability of native American archeological activity. Some disagreement among the Commission on this front, will be revisited.
11. Proposed redevelopment adjacent to Groton Inn was discussed, felt to be within the purview of the Historic District Commission and not the Historical Commission.
12. There was a discussion of a potential proposal to request an annual administration budget from the Town of Groton for the Historical Commission. Bob DeGroot mentioned the possibility of investigating funding through the CPC, will follow up.
13. Proposal to apply for CPA funds for a condition assessment of the Bancroft Castle, in concert with other stakeholders. (Joshua Vollmar). Historical Commission was supportive of the concept. Will be carried forward to future meeting agendas.
14. Next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday July 12, 7pm.
15. Meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at approximately 8:50pm.