Groton Historical Commission

September 13, 2023

Groton Town Hall

7:00 PM

**Agenda:**

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:12PM. Commissioners Aubrey Theall, Michael LaTerz, Joshua Vollmar in attendance.
2. Review of August minutes was deferred to the next meeting due to a lack of a quorum.
3. Prescott House Updates (Aubrey Theall):
   1. 18 month demo delay clock continues to tick toward November 2024.
   2. Discussion of RFP Responses for Historic Structure Report. Two bids were received, one for $33,000 and one for $21,425. There was a discussion of the prospect of raising these funds and the utility of doing so. The consensus was that given the property owner's stated opposition to preserving the house on site that an engineering study is probably not a good use of donated funds. Decision was made to go back to the two bidders and to limit the scope to just a historical narrative and documentation of the house as it presently exists and ask for revised bids. Once the figures are known we will seek to raise the funds.
   3. Real estate quasi "listing" (for movement of house), Aubrey expects to be able to create an online listing this month. Mike LaTerz may have photographs of use.
   4. Prescott House FAQ's are with GHM, Aubrey to follow up with Gary Shepherd.
4. Preservation of Town Records/Possible CPA Funding (Bob DeGroot). Deferred to next meeting in Bob's absence.
5. Inventory of Historic Assets: (Michael Danti). Michael was absent but there was some discussion of the concept of creating a repository for digital scans of historical documents. Possible future CPC application around this concept.
6. Old Meetinghouse Updates: (Allen King). Deferred to next meeting in Allen's absence.
7. Milestone Markers. (Michael LaTerz). Letters of support have been requested. Preliminary application is in progress and will be submitted by Michael.
8. Bancroft Castle (Joshua Vollmar). Letter sent to MA DEP, other remaining conservation restriction holder. There was discussion as to whether or not this could be pulled together for this CPC funding cycle. Aubrey Theall and Joshua Vollmar will attempt to get the summary application together in time.
9. Letter to Library Trustees re: archived newspapers was sent by Aubrey Theall. Response was received and access restoration is being worked on but omitted mention of Turner's Public Spirit. Aubrey to follow up on that.
10. New business- Town of Groton Master Plan Process was discussed briefly. The discussion focused on the need to document a detailed roadmap of tasks for GHC. This needs to be an ongoing item on the agenda, for the time being.
11. Historical Plaque Program was discussed in the context of a review of the pilot application from Brian Bolton. It was agreed that accepted application would be by vote of a quorum. An accepted application will have a letter of approval sent to the applicant. The letter will include the plaque’s text that has been accepted. Thbe letter will request the owner send a photo of the installed plaque as a concluding step of the application cycle. Note 1 – the procedural specification will loosen the size requirements of the plaque. Note 2 – No need seen to change the 90 day processing cycle, at this time.
12. Next meeting was scheduled for 10/18.
13. Meeting was adjourned at 8:34pm.