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Groton Historical Commission- Agenda

October 16, 2024

7pm- Groton Town Hall

1. Meeting called to order at 7:02pm. Commissioners Aubrey Theall, Joshua Vollmar, Richard Nason and Gus Widmayer in attendance. Amanda Chang also in attendance. Amanda will be imminently appointed a Commissioner by the Select Board. After being sworn in she will be an active Commissioner.
2. September minutes were approved by unanimous vote.
3. 171 Lowell Rd., discussion of horse watering trough. Rebecca Tabasky. Historic stone watering trough has been located on the property. Owner would like to move it and feature it more prominently on the property. No approval required from HistComm. Property is not in the Historic District. HistComm expressed support for maintaining and featuring the trough as part of the landscape.
4. Four CPC applications will be sponsored wholly or in part by HistComm in the FY26 cycle. Prescott Family research, Bancroft Castle preservation, Digital database study partnering with the Library and perhaps other stakeholders and Prescott House preservation (should a plan to preserve the house emerge). Vanessa Abraham was in attendance from the Library in support of the digital database project.
5. Prescott House updates: Demo permit will be issued in early November. HistComm does not approve or deny that permit, it is the jurisdiction of the Building Inspector per Town Counsel. Our role is limited to administration of the delay bylaw.
   1. There is one party still looking at moving the house (to serve as a house) and an effort underway in town involving a handful of interested parties to perhaps move the house to serve as a historical attraction. Both should be considered long shots given the amount of remaining time and cost of the project.
6. Active CPC project applications:
   1. Bancroft Castle- Field work was done. Waiting for report, likely arrives in November.
   2. Historical mile marker project- Aubrey reached out to Highway Dept. about trimming brush on Old Ayer Rd. to assist in locating mile marker, no response. Will search for the missing stone once the foliage dies back.
7. Groton Master Plan. Joshua Vollmar, no update required as of this meeting.
8. Topics not anticipated within 48 hours of the meeting. (none)
9. New business. (none)
10. Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote at 8:15pm.