

Town of Lunenburg Historical Commission

Rebecca Lantry, Chair
Richard McGrath, member
Cullen Dwyer, Clerk
Jennifer Sanderson, member
Bill Lakso, member



Meeting Minutes December 4th, 2018, 6:30PM, Ritter Building 960 Massachusetts Avenue

Meeting Opened by Chair Lantry at 6:30

Demolition Delay Hearing:

Keith Michon Esq. appeared to represent his client and owner of 4 Townsend Harbor Rd regarding the demolition application for the barn on the property. The barn in question had been inspected by members of the Commission and deemed in too poor condition to be worth saving, and the Commission voted unanimously to permit demolition without the imposition of delay.

Review of minutes:

Minutes for November 6th were not available for this meeting, and so review of them was continued to the next meeting.

Correspondence:

Mina Corpuz of the Fitchburg Sentinel and Enterprise contacted Lantry regarding the demolition of the old cemetery building, and the damaged monuments that had been found around the site. Bill Tyler of the Cemetery Commission was present at the meeting, and commented that he had received this inquiry and responded. Some old monuments that had broken had been removed from the cemetery and moved to the site of the building, and upon demolition, more damaged monuments were discovered partly buried. Other gravestones of concern were duplicates or misprinted stones that had been sent to the cemetery accidentally.

Present business:

Lantry presented an invoice to the clerk for the bronze plaque she had ordered to mark the location of the Arnold-Litch cemetery.

Lantry also announced the voting results from the fall town meeting, and the town's decision to extend the demolition delay period to eighteen months. Discussion followed as to when the law would take effect. Tanner Cole of the Planning Board, posited that the law would be enforceable from the date that the warrant was submitted, which would mean that the Battles House on 68 Elm Street would have an extra year of protection.

Lakso reported continued progress on the K-House project.

Unfinished/New Business:

Lantry announced that the Battles House and its barn might possibly be saved by relocation. Tanner Cole was present to explain the condition of the house and barn, and the benefits and difficulties involved in moving them to his planned Christmas tree farm on 100 Howard Street. He said that the barn would be easier to move and of greater benefit to him. He was not sure about the house. Lakso motioned to release the barn at 68 Elm Street from demolition delay for the purpose of disassembly, relocation and restoration, as discussed. The motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for January 8th, 2019

Meeting adjourned: at 8:17

