



Office of

Historical Commission

Lawrence Memorial Hall
2 Jabish Street
Belchertown, Massachusetts 01007



Members present:

Leslie Squires Alexander Loss Jill Bierly Patrick Bierly
Guest: Gary Brougham

10 January 2017

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1930.

Gary Brougham came to the meeting to discuss the John Patrick house, the house of the superintendent at the former Belchertown State School. Brougham explained about the condition of the house; stating that the property is in disrepair. Brougham also stated that the town has estimated it would cost between \$250,000 and \$500,000 to bring it up to date. He said it would cost the town about \$80,000 to take the house down; the town has allocated funds to tear it down. Members of the commission suggested the town sell the house-- to say Neil Jackson -- for say \$1.00 with the stipulation that the house be moved from the current site. Neil Jackson has property near Myron Walker's House, also known as the Collis House that used to be on Main Street. It would be a relatively short move for the house and Jackson could fix it up for use as a rental property. Thus the building could be preserved.

Alex suggested we, as the BHC, go into the building and look around to see how the building was built and see if there are any artifacts or structural details worth saving.

Loss also suggests that the BHC advertise for a college student from UMass to create an exhibit/display of artifacts in Lawrence Memorial Hall. There are a number of farm implements and architectural details that the BHC has saved from both the former Dudek farm and the former BSS properties- most of these items are currently in storage at the New England Small Farm institute.

The minutes for the 16 December meeting of the Historical Commission were read, Pat made a motion to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Alex. Motion passed by a 4 - 0 - 0 vote.

A motion was made by Alex to end the meeting seconded by Pat. Motion passed 4 - 0 - 0. The meeting ended at 20:30.

Submitted by;

Leslie E. Squires
Leslie E. Squires

Chairman

Belchertown Historical Commission