



Office of

Historical Commission

Lawrence Memorial Hall
2 Jabish Street

Belchertown, Massachusetts 01007

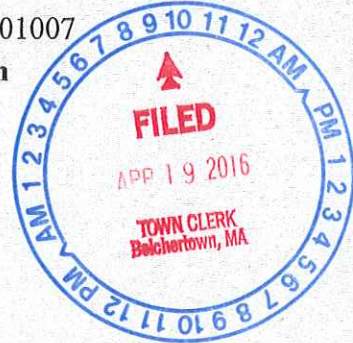
Belchertown Historical Commission

Monthly Meeting Minutes

December 8th, 2015

7:30 to 8:45 PM

Town Hall Auditorium



Members present: Les Squires (chair), Maxine Oland (co-chair), Richard Keating (secretary), Judith Gillian, Alexander Loss, Patrick Bierly, Jill Bierly

Members absent: Erika Hamilton

Ex Officio: Elizabeth Usherwood (graduate assistant UMass Amherst)

Guest: Michael Davidshon, Senior Lecturer, Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, Stockbridge School of Agriculture, UMass Amherst

Chairman Squires called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Dudek Property

Opening discussion focused on the disposition/removal of the Bardwell Street one room schoolhouse to the Belchertown Historical Society Stone House property.

Action item: Alexander Loss will contact Belchertown Historical Society as to the current status of the project and the potential for Commission involvement.

Chairman Squires circulated a letter he composed to Bell Property Corporation, the current owner and developer of the project, thanking them for access to the Dudek Cape prior to its demolition. All Commission members found the letter reflective of their gratitude.

Friendship Trail

Alex related to the Commission a recent hike he completed with Larry Tucker of the Belchertown Snowmobile Club that followed the proposed trail. All agreed, per Alex's suggestion, that the Commission must engage the School Committee (and the Department of Public Works) at an early phase in trail planning as the proposed trail will most likely cross public school property. The BSS campus meeting/site walk was convened for the purpose of

exploring the site with Dick O'Brien, director of the MDCR Recreational Trails program. Participants also included Bruce Klockars, representing Friends of the Farm, Judith Gillan, and EDIC member Kirk Stephens.

Michael Davidsohn's Visit

Mr. Davidsohn, who has considerable experience and expertise in landscape design, suggested that in the Commission should keep in mind cultural, natural, and historical considerations in the planning phase. He offered the services of the Stockbridge School in the feasibility and design concept, most likely through graduate students. Judith Gillian reminded the Commission of the Massachusetts Community Preservation Coalition grant potential as outlined by past guest and CPC member Dick O'Brien.

Action Item: Elizabeth Usherwood to procure topographical maps of possible routes for the trail through Doug Albertson, Town Planner.

Michael Davidsohn concluded by offering his encouragement for the project and his assistance in engaging the Stockbridge School staff and students in the effort. All Commission members thanked him for his valuable input, and agreed to reconnect with Mr. Davidsohn after the Commission reviews the town maps and plots a tentative trail course.

After warm holiday wishes were exchanged, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard S. Keating, Secretary