

Belchertown Historical Commission April meeting minutes

Members in Attendance:

Leslie Squires

Judith Gillan

Patrick Bierly

Jill Bierly



11 April 2017

Les called the meeting to order at 7:35pm

Erika Hamilton's term is coming to an end, Les is not going to recommend she stay on. Les's term is also coming to an end in June, he has not yet decided if he will stay on the commission.

New book about Belchertown State School: *You'll Like It Here Donald Vitkus – Belchertown Patient #3394*, by Ed Orzechowski

<https://cofarblog.wordpress.com/2016/10/27/a-gritty-new-book-on-a-survivor-of-belchertown-state-school/>

Judy invited Bruce Klockars to the meeting, but he was not able to make it.

Judy emailed Nina Sossan, but has not yet gotten a response.

It would be nice to put stories on social media about the local cemeteries and/or local places of interest.

The Commission received a thank you letter from Vick Viglione. He applied for and received a grant from the Community Preservation Act for gravestone restoration at Mt. Hope Cemetery. He enclosed pictures of his restoration work, 15 stones were restored.

Pat made a motion to accept the January meeting minutes. Judy seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted as read.

(we did not have a quorum for the February meeting)

Pat made a motion to accept the March meeting minutes. Judy seconded the motion. The minutes will be accepted as read.

Claire O'Neill emailed to ask if the Historical commission would write a letter in support of their application of MA State historic tax credits. Jill passed around the sample/draft letter from Claire O'Neill for the commission to read and edit. Jill will rewrite the letter and send it to the Historical commission for revision, then Jill will email the letter to Claire O'Neill.

Kestrel is weighing in on the NESFI situation. NESFI has a lease, not complete control of the property. Robert Huffington- graduate student in sustainable communities- living at the farm. Cliff McCarthy helped to write a document in support of the farm.

We started to talk about possibly having a Historical Commission booth at the Belchertown Fair this September. Les, talked about dressing up one October as Miron Walker and standing by his grave in the cemetery. Miron Walker's house was on Main Street where the post office is now. We thought it be fun and interesting for the town to have more events like this in the future, possibly in collaboration with the Stone House Museum.

Les left a note with Gary Brohm to ask about the keys for the former Superintendent's house and the Franklin street school. When Les gets the keys, he will call a special meeting probably on a Saturday and we can meet to tour both buildings.

Should we ask Steve Williams if someone from the Historical Commission could sit on the route 202 project?

Judy has copies of the WALK Boston.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:16.

Leslie E. Inguire for
Respectfully submitted,

Jill Bierly
Acting Secretary