

Tuesday, August 13, 2019

In attendance: Judy Gillan, Alex Loss, Kevin Lynn, Jill Bierly, Pat Bierly

Potential member awaiting appointment: Ange Bergeron-Alexander

Guests: Louise Butler, Kate Anderson Benson, Bruce Benson

Meeting called to order at 7:32pm

Old Business:

For the Belchertown fair- help with the historical society booth

Walk the 202 corridor before they start with the reconfiguration project

Put the interview with Charlie Howard on google docs.

To plan where the memorial of the state school should be:

Ask EDIC for a development map to plan where it would be.

Ange suggested an acoustic amphitheater design for the memorial space. (there is an example in Boston).

Richard Dresser would like to see names of former residents of the state school acknowledged by any memorial.

We would like to use the coupala off the infirmary for a memorial to the state school.

Alex suggested- Possibly place the copula near the new Carriage way/Jackson street intersection

Jill suggested we apply to CPC to preserve the copula. Pat suggested we vote next month on placing it there, in the meantime we should talk to Mass Development about the possibility.

New Business:

Kevin made a wonderful website, let's get it active! We can add in the brief bios of ourselves and oral histories from community members.

Please send in your letters of intent/Bios of HC members added to the website

Bruce suggests a photo gallery and Judy asked to have a "Did you know" section.

Alex made a motion to link the website to the town site. Pat seconded it and we voted unanimously.

Patrick Center stone wall update- we found the blueprint for the original landscape design.

Jill suggested that we work to organize a community "dig" of the garden to uncover its original layout and plants that were planted.

Mass Historic commission upcoming conference-

Alex motioned to fund Jill going to the Preservation Massachusetts conference on September 20th in Plymouth, MA. Kevin seconded the motion. The motion to fund Jill's conference attendance fee was passed unanimously.

Community education-

Stories about our shared history – Austen's plowing the

Need to look for the things that engage people's enthusiasm

Alex said there was a copper mine in Belchertown- between the state farm and Hamilton st.
Copper smith in Sturbridge (elderly)- Judy asked if we could
Alex mentioned that there was a gold mine in the town of Enfield.

Judy wants to work on community engagement
Jill suggested, that we need to be applying for grant funding and permits/permissions for
programs to engage the community.

Kate Benson has revived the Belchertown state school Friends association (dates to the late
1940's) it had become defunct, Kate is hoping to rekindle the efforts of the association in order
to make sure that the entire story of the Belchertown state school is told and memorialized.

Belchertown Cultural Alliance did a walk through of the BSS administration building, in order to
consider and write a Mass Development collaborative workspace grant to conduct a feasibility
study that would consider saving the buildings.

Maker's space/co-working space for entrepreneurs- temporary space- commercial start-ups
Students are bussed out of town for vocational technical programs.

Alex made a motion to support the efforts of the newly formed Belchertown Cultural Alliance.

Louise Butler asked if we could help with a bulletin board for the Belchertown fair. The Ag
commission would like help telling the story of the "changing face of farms" or farms that are
still in operation that have been operating since the 1960's. Poultry farms, dairy/cow farms
Alex suggested that Louise talk to his wife Holly.

Belchertown, South Belchertown, Amherst
Telling our stories that Doris Dickinson and Judy worked on

June meeting minutes approved. Pat made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Kevin seconded
the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm