

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

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

Member awaiting appointment: Ange Bergeron-Alexander

Meeting called to order at 7:35pm

August Minutes passed as read.

Old Business:

Pat has not linked website yet. He needs to do so.

Cultural alliance plans to try to save three former Belchertown State School buildings. We will discuss voting to support their efforts under new business. (Belchertown owns 6 Berkshire and 8 Berkshire. The EDIC and state administer the administration building.

New Business:

John H. Belding submitted a letter of intent to the commission.

We will send a letter to invite Mr. Belding to our October meeting.

We agreed to write a letter of support for the Cultural Alliance to support their efforts to save the former state school buildings: 6 (Berkshire) and 8 (Meadow) Berkshire Ave. and the Admin. building. They would appreciate HC help in listing the Admin. Building as a local historic district, to do so it needs to be in town hands rather than under the purview of EDIC/Mass Development. They are working on solidifying a plan for reuse and/or sale/lease after town gains possession, they recently applied for a Collaborative workspace grant through Mass Development. The HC needs to know more about their plan as well as details on reuse, easement plan for the historic characteristics of the building. HC agreed to TABLE this discussion UNTIL the OCTOBER MEETING then VOTE. HC is wondering if the Cultural Alliance' plans contradict other town entity plans. Also asked if Mass Dev. was involved. Jill needs to email Alex about the meeting with Gary, Cliff, Kate about the administration building.

The Warrant needs to be in to the select board by February for a town meeting discussion/vote about the admin building becoming a local historic district.

We agreed as a commission to write a letter to stop the sale of the Admin building until the Cultural Alliance or other group comes up with a plan. Multiple town entities would like to preserve and use the Admin building.... We urge the EDIC/Mass Development to remove the building from the real estate market.

The vote to write this letter passed unanimously. We will write a letter to EDIC.

Judy and Bruce's began an organization effort to make a database of the contents of the HC's file cabinet in town hall. Bruce wanted to document drawer by drawer. Judy wants to reorganize by project. Next meeting we will discuss and vote on organization of file cabinets. Also discuss linking short paragraphs on the projects in the cabinet to the website and also scanning the documents so that they can be made available on the website. Or, if people are interested in this, they can come in and check out the cabinet with a commission member.

Next meeting talk about a way to tie together info across multiple town entities, us, Clapp, Stone house, UMass, others. Link to website and let people know where they are.

We need to discuss trail markers for the trails projects next month.

Jill received an email from Amber Mastej about the possible purchase and demolition of 100 Federal street, Belchertown it was built in 1824. We will check our HC records for its status, was it part of a survey? (yes 1979) Documented with photographs? We will request a walkthrough of the property.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm