



Bellingham Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes, Monday, February 12, 2024
Location: Historical Museum, 3 Common Street

Attendance

In Person Present Members: Rick Marcoux, Jeffrey Prescott, Bernadette Rivard, Marjorie Turner Hollman

Present on Zoom: Jennifer Russo, Marjorie Turner Hollman, Steve Joanis

Members Absent: Franco Tocchi

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rick Marcoux at 5:02 pm.

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

Jeffrey Prescott made a motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting. The motion was seconded by Marjorie Turner Hollman and was unanimously adopted.

Budget Update

Municipal Budget

Starting Balance \$7,000.00 Expenditures \$ 1338.73 Ending Balance \$5661.27

Expenditures by Month

| July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun |
|------|-------|------|--------|--------|-------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 0.00 | 28.88 | 0.00 | 647.99 | 242.90 | 85.88 | 333.05 | | | | | |

Expenses since last meeting paid from municipal budget

| Date | Vendor | Amount | Description |
|------|--------|--------|-------------|
| None | | | |

Bills received but not paid

None

Gift Fund

Starting Balance \$2444.23 Deposits \$ Expenditures \$ 0 Ending Balance \$2444.23

Correspondence: None

Old Business

Hours & Sr. Tax Work Off Staff Update – We are now open Tuesdays and the 4th Saturday of the month from 9:30-12:30. Tuesdays are staffed by Marjorie. Bernadette will staff the February Saturday and Jennifer will take March. We need to find someone for April.

Genealogy Program with the Library - Bernadette, Jennifer and Marjorie, along with Catherine Perrault from the library and Gabrielle LaPlante are presented a “Getting Started with Genealogy” program at the library on February 10th that was attended by 15 people and will lead to more genealogy programming, and possibly a genealogy club in the future

Security Fire Alarm Update – No update

Returning Items to Donors Update

The totem pole, which has been determined not to have historically significant to the Cherokee. A decision was made to offer it to Bellingham Boy Scout Troop 14 for potential use at their camp. We are awaiting a reply.

The corn sheller has been returned to Jud (George) Ratcliff's family.

After no reply from Amy Cook or her family, a decision was made to dispose of the feather bed that is in the trunk, and keep the trunk to possibly store items in the basement. Bernadette will verify with the DPW what steps we need to take to dispose of it.

Family Cemetery Field Trip – More research needs to be done to determine if this is still a cemetery or if the bodies that were buried there have been moved to another location. Online searching for more information was not successful. Based on information from our intern Lindsay Sezen, the stone structure might have had a metal marker on it. In the spring another trip will be made to the site with a metal detector to see if that marker can be located as it might have information about the age of the cemetery and who might be buried there.

Poor Farm Presentation – will be scheduled for the fall.

Lighting in Museum Basement – The town electrician has been notified that we approve the quote to renovate the basement lighting.

Library Museum Partnership – The library will be hosting a 6-week program on Bellingham history for homeschoolers. Two of the sessions will take place at the museum, where we will do the scavenger hunt activity!

Crimpsville Comments, Spring Issue will highlight the genealogy program and provide short articles on Bellingham's founding and multigeneration families or famous residents.

Community Preservation Act – The group discussed the current climate in town where many are expressing dissatisfaction with the development in town and wondered if it might be a good time to make sure the community is aware of the Community Preservation Act and what the pros and cons are of the town considering adopting it. Bernadette will reach out to members of the Select Board and Conservation Commission to see if there is interest in hosting an online meeting with the state agency that administers the CPA, for us to learn more about it and to see if it is something that we would like to present to the whole community.

Jeffrey Prescott made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 pm. It was seconded by Steve Joanis and unanimously adopted.

Next meeting date: To be determined

Respectfully submitted,



Bernadette Rivard, Secretary