Bellingham Historical Commission  
Meeting Minutes, Monday, August 24th, 2020, 5 pm  
Meeting held via the Zoom Platform  

Attendance  
Members: Rick Marcoux, Steve Joanis, Bernadette Rivard, Pam Johnson  
Absent: Priscilla Compton, Franco Tocchi, Bob Donahue  

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rick Marcoux at 5:07 pm.  

Pam Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 13th meeting. The motion was seconded by Steve Joanis and was unanimously adopted.  

Bernadette Rivard updated the group on the Commission’s financial accounts:  

**Municipal Budget Annual Balance $4500** – can be used for most non-payroll related purposes. It is not limited to the Crimpville Comments.  

**Gift Fund Balance $7654.35** – can be used for virtually any (lawful) non-payroll related purpose.  

**Agenda Topics**  

**1949 American LaFrance Ladder Fire Truck Owned by the Commission** – The Commission currently owns a wooden fire engine ladder that has been stored over the entry of the museum. The ladder belongs to a fire engine that was owned by Franklin, sold to Bellingham, and eventually donated back to the Town of Franklin. The ladder has no direct tie to Bellingham and belongs with the fire engine that it originated on. On a motion by Steve Joanis that was seconded by Bernadette Rivard, and unanimously adopted, the Commission voted to donate the ladder back to the Town of Franklin.  

**Flooring, Painting & Lighting Plan** – The current plan is for Ron, the town carpenter, to bring in someone to evaluate the pine floor that is under the current carpet can be sanded and refinished. If so, we will go with wood floors and potential get area rugs or carpets for décor. If the floor is not able to be refinished, we will look to either wood-look vinyl plank flooring or a traditional carpet.  

Gary Remillard, the town electrician, will be working on lighting upgrades and we are exploring the possibility of adding a mini-split heating/AC system as the current AC is insufficient to cool the building.  

Bernadette Rivard made a motion for the walls to be painted Synchronicity PPG 1021-2 (a beige color) and the trim to be painted Americana (a colonial blue color) PPG1152-4. It was seconded by Steve Joanis and unanimously adopted.  

This project will begin very soon. In the meantime, we will need to discuss the plan for a reorganization of the museum collection.  

**RS Mile Marker Preservation & Promotion** – Bob Donahue is proposed that the Commission investigate restoring and preserving the RS Mile Marker as well as creating a duplicate to be restored to its original Hartford
Avenue location. Steve Joanis presented a $375.00 quote from Gravestone Services, a company recommended by Ackerman Monument in Holliston to restore the mile marker. The company will pick up and return the marker to the museum. Bernadette Rivard made a motion to approve contracting with Gravestone Services, in the amount of $375.00, to restore the mile marker. The motion was seconded by Pam Johnson and was unanimously adopted. The project will be paid for with funds from the Gift Fund.

It was recommended that the replica of the marker be made from black granite and not slate. Steve Joanis is investigating that possibility and will bring the results to a future meeting.

**Electronic Newsletter**
Bernadette Rivard made a motion to spend $500 with Constant Contact to enable the Commission to create a periodic newsletter that can reach up to 2000 subscribers in Constant Contact. The motion was seconded by Steve Joanis and unanimously adopted.

**Mission Statement**
A draft has been distributed and will be discussed and voted at a future meeting.

The next meeting of the Commission will be on Monday, September 14th at 5 pm, location to be determined.

Bernadette Rivard made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:31 pm. It was seconded by Steve Joanis and unanimously adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Bernadette Rivard, Secretary