Bellingham Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes, Monday, December 14 2020 at 5 pm
Meeting held via the Zoom Platform

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rick Marcoux at 5:00 pm.

Pam Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Franco Tocchi and was unanimously adopted.

Agenda Topics

Update on Museum Renovation – Rick & Bernadette updated the group on the status of the museum renovation.

- Awaiting the installation of the new lighting for project to proceed
- Fundraising Update – A request for donations to the Commission’s gift fund was made in the November issue of the Crimpville Comments and on Facebook. To date we have received $675 in donations. We have also received $60 in subscription fees for the Crimpville Comments
- Collection Reorganization Update – Bernadette is planning on spending some Friday mornings in January at the museum and invites other commission members to join her to begin the collection reorganization planning. She will email the group early in the week the Friday’s she will be there.
  - When preparing the staff desk (which we have since found out was Clara Macy’s desk) that was in the museum for repair, Rick found documents in the back of the desk. These documents were mostly correspondence to Joseph Thomson. They span from 1758-1866 and are in remarkable condition. Steve Joanis has the documents and has been reviewing them and scanning them. They tell a remarkable story of life in Bellingham in colonial times.

Crimpville Comments
The Crimpville Comments was distributed in November. 81 copies were mailed to those who requested print copies. The remainder of the 250 printed were split and distributed to the library, senior center and both the upstairs and downstairs locations at town hall. It was also shared on Facebook and posted on the Commission’s page on the town website.

The next planned issue is for the summer of 2021. We discussed the issue focusing on the treasure’s we have found while renovating, like the Thomson papers.

Electronic Newsletter
Our electronic newsletter was sent to 176 subscribers in November and it included the link to the Crimpville comments.
Future Programs
Steve mentioned he has a program he has previously presented on Bellingham Catholics focusing on the history of St. Brendan’s Church, as a program for the Commission to present to the public. Also, there is the program that Bernadette, Rick & Steve presented to the Bellingham seniors called “A Potpourri of Bellingham History” to the public as a Zoom session. That could be replicated for the general public. We will discuss having these programs in the winter months when people are looking for indoor programming opportunities.

The next meeting of the Commission will be on Monday, January 11th at 5 pm, on Zoom.

Steve Joanis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 pm. It was seconded by Franco Tocchi and unanimously adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernadette Rivard, Secretary