Bellingham Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes, Monday, November 9, 2020 at 5 pm
Meeting held via the Zoom Platform

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

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

Pam Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Steve Joanis and was unanimously adopted.

Agenda Topics

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

- Painting, flooring and new radiator covers are completed. Electrical work has begun, but we are waiting on town electrician Gary Remillard to do the bulk of the electrical work. Some “new to us” furniture (desk and tables) will be coming from other town departments.

- Once the lighting is completed, we can begin working on the new layout and organization of the museum collection. This will be our winter project and we hope we can open to the public sometime in the spring.

RS Mile Marker Preservation & Promotion – the marker restoration has been completed. Decisions need to be made on where it will be displayed. Fabricating a replica will be postponed until next fiscal year.

Crimpville Comments
Our Veterans Day issue of the Crimpville Comments is nearly complete. Once we get a photo from the Veteran’s Day event it will be ready to distribute. It will first be linked on the town website and shared on the Commission Facebook page. It will then be sent out as a link in our electronic newsletter as well as to the print subscribers who indicated they would also like to receive it electronically. Discussed was how many issues to print. On a motion made by Bernadette Rivard and seconded by Pam Johnson, it was unanimously voted to print 250 copies of the Crimpville Comments. Under 100 will be mailed to the current print subscribers and the rest will be distributed at town offices throughout town. They will be printed inhouse at the library and the Commission will reimburse the library for printing costs ($1.66 per issue). If the offices in town notify us they need additional copies, we will print them on demand.

Electronic Newsletter
Our electronic newsletter has 169 subscribers. Bernadette will share the link on social media this week to try to increase the subscribers before the next newsletter is sent, within a week or so.

Mission Statement
Steve Joanis and Franco Tocchi worked on a draft mission statement: The activities of the Bellingham Historical
Commission encompass the upkeep of the Bellingham museum; looking into places, events, and objects that relate to Bellingham; helping to preserve historical sites; and supporting educational activities as needed. The commission may also acquire items that may have some relevance to town history if it has been deemed necessary to take in.

Based on information received from the Secretary of State’s office on the role of Historical Commissions, we will delay voting on the mission statement until a conversation is had with town officials about that document.

**Museum Collection Policy**

We will be creating a draft collection policy to share with Commission members for a vote. This policy will assist in outlining the kinds of artifacts and materials the museum collects as well as donation policy and other information to share with members of the public wishing to share their items with the museum.

**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, December 14th at 5 pm, on Zoom.

Pam Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:04 pm. It was seconded by Steve Joanis and unanimously adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernadette Rivard, Secretary