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

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rick Marcoux at 5:03 pm.

Franco Tocchi made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Rick Marcoux and was unanimously adopted.

Agenda Topics

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

- Painting on the 2/3 of the museum that has been cleared out is nearly completed.
- Gary Remillard, the town electrician is working on a lighting plan. Steve Joanis requested to be included in decision making on lighting.
- Bernadette & Rick presented a proposal from Car-Leo Floor Covering, a Milford company owned by Bellingham resident Carl Deieso, to install 45 cartons of Karndean Korlok Reserve flooring, with a 30 year commercial warranty for $8,022, using the majority of the commission’s gift fund ($7522 and $500 from the municipal budget) to fund the project. The project cost was compared to an online calculator that estimated the project cost, based on square footage, could range from $6900-$10,419. Bernadette Rivard made a motion to approve the vendor and funding, it was seconded by Steve Joanis and unanimously adopted.
- Once received, hopefully before the end of September, Carl will be installing the flooring on the 2/3 of the cleared area, then we will be moving the items that are on the right side of the building to the left side, the remaining carpet will be removed from the right side, it will be painted and then the remainder of the flooring will be installed on the right side.
- Also discussed was the new layout of the museum after the renovations were completed. There were two options discussed, chronological or by topic (public safety, schools, farming, etc). Once we review the collection a decision on that can be made. Rick suggested we might want to consider a subcommittee to work on that project.

RS Mile Marker Preservation & Promotion – Steve Joanis will be turning the mile marker over to Gravestone Services this week to begin the restoration of the marker. The replica of the marker project is still planned but has not moved forward.
Electronic Newsletter
Bernadette created a Constant Contact account for the Commission and has created the first newsletter that was shared with the group. We will be providing a link on both the website and Facebook page to encourage people to sign up for the newsletter. We currently have 33 subscribers, the Commission members and current recipients of the Crimpville Comments who have provided their email addresses.

A draft of the first newsletter was shared with the group and it will be sent out on October 1st.

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.

Commission members will review the statement before the next meeting, get feedback to the group, so a first reading of the mission statement can be read at the October meeting.

Crimpville Comments
We hope to distribute the Crimpville Comments in November around Veterans Day. Bernadette will be contacting Jim Hastings to find the names of veterans to highlight. Our hope is to have a veteran from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Domino’s Property Development Plan
A copy of the road development plan was shared with the group. The town has indicated that the plan is for the space not needed for the road expansion will be green space that will abut the museum property. Once the project is complete, we can determine how to best use the space for signage, etc. to promote 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. Bernadette mentioned offering the program that she, Rick & Steve presented to the Bellingham seniors called “A Potpourri of Bellingham History” to the public as a Zoom session in the fall.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Bernadette Rivard, Secretary