

Minutes
Holliston Historical Commission
March 15, 2023

Present: Frank Chamberlain, Carol Kosicki, Ben Clarkson. James Keast, Sara Zarrelli, Mary Greendale (members); Toni Clark, guest.

The Committee agreed by consensus to reorder the agenda to allow Toni Clark to participate in the discussion of the cemetery/tombstone improvement project. She lives next to the East Holliston Cemetery. Toni also generously offered to allow trucks to park in her driveway.

Maj. Miller

James reported that he will add the repair work on Major Miller's tomb to the cemetery improvements but will define the work separately. If no one that submits bids can do this work, he can remove it and issue it separately. The repair will cost \$25,000 +/- . CPC is recommending the funding for it at May TM.

Note: We never took the vote recommending the tomb of significance; does this need to happen before town meeting, if so, add to agenda for April.

Cemeteries

Contractors have visited the cemeteries, and James has learned what might have made the RFP better. Ivan Myjer, an expert and former contractor, has revised the specs and prepared an addendum. Contractors think that the budget makes sense. Ivan will also make recommendations on dealing with the trees that have encroached on plots and tombstones.

Frank requested that Myjer meet with the HC at a cemetery so we can learn from him.

East Holliston cemetery: Toni Clark offered to allow the Town to use her spigot to access water, with the understanding that a separate meter will be attached so that the Clarks are not charged.

Ben Clarkson told the members about the "age" of the Littlefield Tavern based on a professional study he commissioned – the house was built in 1678, judging by a beam on the first floor. The front, eastern corner was one room down and one up and the work was completed in 1681. One beam elsewhere in the house was deemed to be from winter of 1639 and was probably part of the house that was across the street. The Tavern was originally built by the Underwoods. (Exciting stuff for a room of history buffs.)

Design Standards. No action

Surveying Historical Assets

The Commission watched a video done by Mass Historic about doing surveys of historical

houses, archaeological sites, etc. After the meeting, the Committee agreed by consensus that Sara would investigate applying to the state for a grant in the fall. Frank will also investigate whether the CPA funds can be used on such surveys, as noted by MHC in the video. Snacks were provided by Sara and James. □

We will start reviewing the B forms we have for the VC area – and start our work there. The benefit of using MHC is that they provide Technical Assistance and a list of available contract expert. There are not many around.

Metcalf Station was discussed. Ideally the hand tub would be located in it but there are issues like security and access. It's impossible to stand a ladder against the building without putting the ladder on the neighbor's property. James to check on Tub, Frank to check on status of Metcalf and what is in it. Frank would like the tub to be moved to Metcalf so people can see it.

No action was taken on **February minutes**.

Next meeting is April 19, but that may be adjusted to accommodate school vacation.

Submitted by,
Mary Greendale