

Holliston Historical Commission
February 15, 2023
Minutes

Present:

Frank Chamberlain, Ben Clarkson, Mary Greendale, James Keast, Carol Kosicki, Sara Zarrelli

7:12pm

Design Bylaws

Nothing has advanced. Mary will check with Travis Ahern for any update from his end.

Historical Building Survey

Sara reported that she spoke with Jennifer B. Doherty, Local Government Programs Coordinator at MHC and learned there was a grant program for surveys. The RFP comes out in the fall, we would have to submit Letter of Intent in November, invitations to apply are released in Feb. and the application is due in March. The program runs nine months.

MHC handles the administrative work of identifying potential consultants. The town chooses one. The estimate is that MHC would provide \$15,000 and we'd match that, hopefully with CPA funds – Frank to check on that possibility. This should cover 100 houses in areas not already done for the Historic Districts.

Sara reported that MHC has digitized all our Schedule B forms and they are great and searchable.

Demo Delay

The Building Inspector is “on board” if we decide to put “teeth” into the by-law according to James. We may want to invite the BI to a meeting

Frank will draft a revised Bylaw for the March meeting for us to review.

Miller Tomb

James awaits the reconstruction man to come and give an estimate. James has prepared an RFP for the May Town Meeting requesting \$50,000 from CPC funds.

A descendant contacted James from Colorado. This made the Committee consider what its obligation was to try to find descendants for permission before repairs were done. The consensus was that this is an emergency repair on a Town property. Anything we do can be reversed, but we have neither the time nor the money to do a comprehensive search for the legally appropriate descendant.

Carol said that she had not found any documentation to prove that Miller is in the tomb except

for the report from the Bliss sisters done for the DAR. John M. Batchelder in 1900 reported about the "Miller" tomb: Brick tomb no inscription.

Frank to check the DAR records. There is nothing inscribed on the tomb, and Miller's children are buried in the cemetery on Gorwin Drive.

Cemetery Restoration

The Committee agreed to meet on Monday February 20, 2023 in the Central Cemetery to complete the survey of the condition of the monuments and headstones. James has the RFP ready to insert the numbers of stones addressed. Then he will release the RFP, leave it open for one month, and then hire a contractor.

Assessors' Records

Mary said that a resident had asked about the Assessors' records as he searches for information on his family's home. Mary needs to talk to the Assessors and the Town Clerk to set up protocol for accessing these reports. Mary needs to review them for the 300th history as well.

HC Files

Sara spent considerable time go through the records of the HC. She reported that the "second drawer" in our file is administrative records, resources and Schedules B. She suggested that we inventory what's in each folder doing a quick review. Then once we have that, we can dig deeper into the files. The committee agreed they'd meet in March and do that as a group project.

The minutes for December 21, 2022 and January 17, 2023 were approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30. Next meeting is March 15, 2023.