

Merrimack Heritage Commission – Meeting Minutes 10-April-2023

Attendance: Heritage Commission – Chip Pollard, John Frechette, Barbara Healey

Guests – Anita Creager, John Lastowka (Historical Society), Chuck Mower (Historical Society), Larry Shower (Historical Society), Rick Price (Historical Society)

1905 hrs: Meeting called to order by John Frechette

1905 hrs: Review and approval of prior minutes

- The minutes for the October, December, January, February, and March meetings were voted on and approved.

1910 hrs: Commission files

- Every month, the members will divide up a drawer and review the files. The files will be separated into three categories; files to keep, files of potential interest, and paperwork for potential discard.
- Barbara completed a review of the files that she had. Administrative filing consisted of 2002 correspondences. Resources filing consisted of Secretary of State correspondence for a list of historical sites. Historic Events filing consisted of files for a Memorial Day Event and an old military weapons display. Historic Places filing consisted of Old Kings Hwy and a folder of old maps. The files will be filed accordingly by category.

1920 hrs: Signs for Schoolhouses and Fire Stations

- No new follow-up has been done. John F. will contact Dawn Tuamola

1925 hrs: Thomas More College

- Chip provided a summary of the project to date. The Fair family arranged for another contractor to conduct a study of the grounds for further potential graves. The school ends its term next month. Chip will contact Trisha Fair to arrange a visit to the school, potentially at the end of May. John L. advised that he had contact with Trisha. Her father believes there are more gravesites than the initial study revealed.
- Barbara advised that the College has another meeting with the Planning Board scheduled in the 1st week of June.
- Barbara advised that copies of the final report need to be provided to Town Manager Paul Micali as he is the Graveyard Trustee.
- There is also a large apple tree on the property that has the potential to be a Champion Tree. Mary Tebo should also be notified of this tree.

1935 hrs: New Passaconaway Tree

- Chuck M. requested that the Heritage Commission pursue having the Town-owned land of the ferry site, the potential New Passaconaway Tree and the two Passaconaway Islands

designated as a historic heritage site. In order to do so, we will need history and documentation of the history of the ferry site and Passaconaway Islands.

- Now that the snow is melted, a visit to the tree and surrounding area should be scheduled. We have a potential visit scheduled for April 22, 2023, at 11:00 am. We are to meet at the Historical Society.

1950 hrs: Stone Wall Documentation

- Barbara advised that the State DES website has a link to the lidar maps showing stone walls. She has been visually verifying the stone walls and updating the state website with photos where she can obtain them.

2000 hrs: Historical Society Events

- John L advised that the next Historical Society meeting is on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 6:00 pm. The keynote presenter will be Chuck Mower, with a presentation regarding Lovewell's War.
- John L and Chuck M. advised that they are working on a new presentation regarding Chamberlin's Bridge and the Milford Lovejoy Granite Quarry that provided the granite. They were inquiring about the status of the bridge. Barbara advised that the Town received DES approval for the elevated walkway along the river and under the bridge. The bridge may also be restored.

2015 hrs: Filing

- John F. filed the reviewed files and provided Barbara with more for review.
- John L. borrowed a file regarding the Chamberlin Bridge. A signed release is attached to the original printed minutes.

2030 hrs: Meeting adjourned

Next Meeting: May 8, 2023