

**New Braintree Historical Commission
September 5, 2019 at 3:30 pm
Meeting Agenda**

Minutes

Treasurer's Report

Old Business:

- 61 Miles to Boston
- Scenic Roads
- Gravestone Workshop
- Summer Work
- Copy Machine

New Business: Correspondence

Other Business:

Correspondence:

Adjournment:

Posted by:

Date:

Time:

NEW BRAINTREE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Thursday, June 6, 2019

6:30 p.m.

AGENDA

Minutes

Treasurer's Report

- Copy Machine

Old Business:

- 61 Miles to Boston
- Scenic Roads
- Gravestone Program
- Summer Work

New Business:

- Correspondence
- Other



Meeting Minutes of the
New Braintree Historical Commission - Draft

March 7, 2019

Meeting called to order at 3:33 p.m.

Present: Cynthia Kennison, Julie Rousseau, Deb Morrison

Visitor: Jennifer Pollard

Minutes of February 7, 2019 were read. Changes to make correct spelling of Haller.

Tree marking from Oakham Road to Thompson Road.

Cynthia motioned to accept minutes as corrected. Deb seconded. Approved.

Cynthia forgot to ask Barbara Finan for copy of interview of Glidden's. She will follow up on this.

There is \$350.00 in the treasury. Deb motioned to accept. Cynthia seconded. Approved.

Purchases - Copy Machine works! Deb reported that we need two ink cartridges, one black, one color. Deb compared prices with W.B. Mason and Walmart. Walmart is cheaper. Price at Walmart for black is \$19.48 and color \$43.97. Deb would like to purchase a 3" binder for the dump scrap book. Compared prices: Quill \$27.99, Staples \$31.61 and W.B. Mason \$35.08. Deb would also like to purchase folders for our oral histories. Two packages of 5 are \$13.99 per package at Staples. Deb contacted the town secretary regarding the use of town tax id number. Theresa will talk to Tina DeVries to see if this is possible. Julie motioned to approve purchase of supplies up to \$150.00. Cynthia seconded. Approved

Oral History Letter - Deb submitted letter for members to review. We made changes to the letter. First sentence add after oral history project "in order to capture personal memories and experiences of New Braintree for the future." Last sentence of paragraph delete and replace with "Either Julie or Deb will be contacting you to see if you will talk to us and we will set up a time and place that is convenient for you". Julie will contact Irene Kane, Del Levia and Mary Estabrook. Cynthia suggested when talking to Mary to bring up her moving to New Braintree because of Pioneer Valley Academy. Julie contacted Susie (Waugh) Bagdonas and she and her sister Martha Waugh are willing to be interviewed.

Scenic Roads - Discussion on need to outreach for scenic roads with following groups:

Planning Board
Selectmen
Highway
Conservation

Deb will get by-laws from West Brookfield and Oakham. We already have Petersham. Julie suggested we table this until the next meeting when Dick Reavey is here. Deb feels we will need to set up a specific work meeting to look over area by-laws to see what we like. We feel town needs to embrace state law.

61 Miles to Boston - Julie reported that she spoke to Dan Hamilton regarding marker. Dan suggested measure on Google map between two points. Julie measured from Old Turnpike Road to Boston Common and Worcester Road to Boston Common. Dan suggested Google Franklin Mile Markers and on almost every one they said 61 miles FROM Boston not TO.

Markers we could look at are

West Brookfield Common across from Bill Jankins

East Main by Joshua Spooner well on left side

We can also go to the National Register of Historical Places.

Deb made up a flyer "The Mystery of the Stone" which asks for help in solving the mystery with information or photos. She will post at the Town Hall and Post Office. (see attached)

Deb will mail a copy of marker photo to Richard Verock at Athol Granite Works and Julie will mail to Randy Noble in Hardwick to see if they have any information that will help us.

Inventory Forms - Members went over new home inventory letter draft and made changes.

"Prior to 1997 the state mandated that the New Braintree Historical Commission document all the homes and buildings in town that were built prior to 1946. In 1997 we received a grant to hire Margaret Hepler to complete the documentation of homes from that time until now for New Braintree's records. Enclosed are two examples of inventory forms that were completed. It would be wonderful to have documentation of your home for historians of the future." Keep last two sentences as is. Deb will type letter with changes and email to us.

Gravestones - Deb brought up at the Quaboag Historical Society meeting and they are very receptive to have group meeting of area towns to have speaker.

Markers - Deb, Jennifer and Julie attended meeting. Selectmen stated that the road work on Hardwick Road stops at Thompson Road and will not do anything related to the horse rests. Selectmen would like the Historical Commission to be the "watch dogs" on gravestones and issues and report them to the board of selectmen and they would address as highway department has time.

Meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Rousseau, Secretary



Agenda Historical Commission

Held at the Pollard Library
20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree

February 7, 2019

Minutes

Treasurer's Report

History Books Sold

Balance in accounts

Supplies - file folders, binder Dump scrapbook

Old Business:

Copy Machine

Oral History

Projects - Scenic Roads

51 Miles to Boston

Inventory Forms - New (newer) homes

Gravestones

Selectmen's Meeting - Horse Rests

Marker Maintenance

New Business:

Correspondence

Other Business



Meeting Minutes of the New Braintree Historical Commission

Minutes December 6, 2018

Members attending: Julie Rousseau, Cynthia Kennison, Dick Reavey, Deb Morrison

The November minutes were approved as read.

The Treasurer's report (\$350) was approved. Julie suggested that we purchase a new copy machine. Dick will bring some information about various copier options to the next meeting.

Oral History - Sue Ellen (Whitcomb) Stott's interview was done and transferred onto the computer. Henry Skowyra will be contacted next.

Projects: Cemetery - Deb has contacted the MHC and spoke with Paul Holtz regarding her request for a cemetery preservation speaker. He sent a list of consultants that could speak for a fee. She contacted DCR and they will send a copy of "Preservation Guidelines for Municipally Owned Burial Grounds" and 10 copies of the Terra Firma booklet "Mourning Glory: Preserving Historic Cemeteries". Mr. Holtz suggested that we contact the Association of Gravestone Studies in Greenfield, MA for information or programs.

Inventory - Jeff Fiske is working on an inventory form for his home and will contact Julie when it is completed.

Marker Stone - Deb reported that she had a great conversation with Bob Fay regarding the 61 miles to Boston stone. She told him that the Commission is looking into where the stone was originally and will keep him updated. Julie spoke with Jeff Fiske about it and he thought that Old Turnpike Road was the main thoroughfare to Boston and Worcester Road was the thoroughfare to Worcester. He suggested that we look up on the computer "19th Century Turnpikes in Worcester 1799-1829". Julie and Deb looked through our collection of maps and none indicated any marker stones. They will look through George Briggs' documents as he might have written something down when Worcester Road was worked on. Dick thought that we should ask the MHC if the stone should be put on a piece of town owned property or on private property.

Other Business:

Town Report request - Deb will prepare a rough draft that can be worked on at our January meeting.

Battle of New Braintree - Deb suggested and everyone agreed that a plaque be erected to commemorate the Battle. Cynthia will work on the text after the New Year.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30. Deb Morrison

Minutes - July 5, 2018
New Braintree Historical Commission

Members attending: Cynthia Kennison, Julie Rousseau, Deb Morrison
Guest: Jennifer Pollard

The June 7th minutes were corrected and approved.

Treasurer's report for July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 was approved as read.

Old Business:

Oral History - Jane Cronin is willing to be interviewed but will be away for most of the summer. We looked at our list and realized that Cynthia and John have not been interviewed yet. Cynthia will talk to John and they will come up with a date. Julie will ask Jeff Fiske if we could meet with him before he moves.

Projects Update - Julie and Deb have finished organizing, writing ascension cards and numbering our maps. They are stored in the southeast corner of the Commission room in a large gray box and in larger map boxes.

Regional Meeting - Our meeting with Mass. Historical Commission's Christopher Skelly was very educational. He suggested that our first priority should be Outreach, to let our townspeople know the value of their historic properties, landscapes and town history. We thought that a great starting point would be to send a letter and inventory forms that were done by Peggy Hepler especially to the new homeowners. It was discovered that Nancy and Lee Pollard's home was not done by Peggy. We will research the availability of grants to do their home and homes from 1940's on. Information about newer homes in town could be started now. Deb will look in the files for an example of a form that was proposed a few years ago.

New Business:

Correspondence - Deb read emails regarding road work on Dennis Whitney Road.

Other Business None

Meeting adjourned at 5:29.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Morrison



Agenda Historical Commission

Held at the Library
20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree

May 3, 2018

Minutes

Treasurer's Report - Bills

Old Business:

Oral History

Members

Projects Update

Regional Meeting - Scenic Roads

New Business:

Correspondence

Other Business



Meeting Minutes Historical Commission

Held at the Pollard Library
20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree

November 2, 2017

PRESENT: Richard Barrett, Cynthia Kennison, Deb Morrison, Chris Maio
Meeting opened at 3:30 P.M.

The previous month minutes read and approved by members, all in favor.

Historical Commission treasury balance reported at \$350.00

OLD BUSINESS: Oral History

Stephanie Benoit has been interviewed, however, not all areas were covered so an arrangement will be made to finish the interview sometime in November.

Julie Rousseau will contact Marge Wisiup to schedule her pending interview.

The question was raised about how to protect authenticity and privacy of those being interviewed while remaining on subject. Want to be clear upon starting an interview that the recorder can be shut off upon request at any time during the interview process.

Cemetery

Due to seasonal weather changes we will postpone actively working on this project until further notice.

Members

Richard Barrett, Cynthia Kennison, Deb Morrison, Julie Rousseau, and Chris Maio have been appointed to the Historical Commission by the New Braintree selectboard. Members need to make arrangements to be sworn in.

Scenic Roads

Maps and other information have been located by Deb while sorting through materials which had been in Connie Small's possession. Deb will bring them to upcoming meetings for members to read through and gather information.

NEW BUSINESS:

Correspondence

The Planning Board mailed a letter to the Historical Commission members for the upcoming meeting (Monday, November 6, 2017) on solar panels for property located at 40 Hardwick Road in New Braintree. Discussion of property mentioned being listed in Massachusetts Historical Commission records as “Battle of New Braintree” during Shay’s Rebellion. Deb and Richard intend to attend the meeting to ensure that the Planning Board is aware of the property being documented as a historic site.

Other

Walking Tour – Discussion of idea or interest in planning a walking tour of New Braintree in the future – subject to be re-visited.

Native American Burial Ground – Land recently sold in West Brookfield has been referred to as “burial ground”. There are concerns for loss of artifacts if this property is a site of historic interest. Deb is sending a letter to Mr. Bell who does archaeological work to get more information.

Gleason Donations – Members looked through a box of materials that had been donated to determine if items should remain with the Historical Commission. It has been decided that these particular items can be part of a book sale.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 P.M.



Meeting Minutes Historical Commission

Held at the Pollard Library
20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree

December 7, 2017

PRESENT: Richard Barrett, Cynthia Kennison, Deb Morrison, Chris Maio
Meeting opened at 3:30 P.M.

The November minutes read and approved by members, all in favor.

Historical Commission treasury balance reported at \$350.00

OLD BUSINESS: Oral History

The interview of Stephanie Benoit was completed by Deb Morrison.

Julie Rousseau is waiting to hear back from Marge Wisiup and Mr. and Mrs. Glidden to schedule their interviews for the beginning of the new year. Jennifer Pollard used a recorder to interview Ernst Matties as he was visiting the area for the Thanksgiving holiday.

A discussion was had regarding asking Dan Hamilton for additional help in learning how to use the equipment for interviews to ease the process.

Members

Richard Barrett, Cynthia Kennison, Deb Morrison, Julie Rousseau, and Chris Maio have all been sworn in as official members of the Historical Commission.

Scenic Roads

The members are looking forward to continuing their work and progress on the scenic roads in January.

Shay's Rebellion Site

Members Deb, Julie and Richard attended a meeting which concerned property located at 40 Hardwick Road being used for a solar panel array. Letter drafted by commission members was read at the meeting. Cynthia reminded members that our responsibility is to inform of historical interests, but it is beyond our capabilities to prevent the outcome of this matter.

NEW BUSINESS:

Correspondence

A discussion was had about the wording used for the "Old Bay Path Indian Trail" pamphlet. Some minor changes were made to clarify directions and locations referenced.

Other

Questions were raised as to what the exact criteria for being a member of the Historical Commission should be; specifically, regarding residence requirements. Perhaps a requirement of owning land in New Braintree will be sufficient. Deb will contact Christopher Skelly for more information.

Bibles that were reviewed at the November meeting have been donated to the Baptist church for new members in need of a Bible. This was accomplished with help from Deb's sister, for which we thank her.

Gleason Donations – Additional Gleason donations were looked through and determined to be items that should be added to the Historical Society collection. These items included Look magazine articles about John F. Kennedy and a Farmer's Almanac from 1957 as well as some stamps and postcards.

Meeting adjourned at 4:46 P.M.