

New Braintree Historical Commission
Minutes of April 4, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.

Present: Deb Morrison, Marjie Wissiup, Julie Rousseau, Dick Reavey
Town Historian - Jennifer Pollard

The minutes of March 7, 2024 were read. Marjie motioned to accept, Dec seconded.
Unanimous.

Special Meeting with Cemetery Commission minutes of March 20, 2024 were read. Deb and Jennifer asked to have the following added to the minutes. "Deb and Jennifer both stated that the plots including the granite belonged to each family and not to the Town. Last paragraph last sentence re: granite put back around Webb grave." Marjie motioned to accept the minutes with the amendment. Deb seconded. Unanimous.

Treasurer's Report - \$350.00. Deb motioned to accept. Marjie seconded. Approved. A discussion on money in the town trust fund. Members feel this money should not be used for lawn mower purchase. We will revisit at our next meeting.

National Register Designation - Deb received a letter dated March 13, 2024 from Brona Simon that we received the \$10,000.00 grant. The Selectmen voted at their meeting on March 25, 2024 to accept the grant. The Historical Commission has to send a letter to Michael Steinitz letting him know that the Board of Selectmen accepted the grant award. Deb motioned to accept the MHC Survey and Planning Grant award of \$10,000.00 to support the New Braintree Town Center National Register nomination. Marjie seconded. Unanimous. Deb will send a letter to Mr. Steinitz that the Selectboard and Historical Commission accepted the award. She will call Rene Gregoire, Town Auditor to let her know that the \$10,000 from the town will be needed.

Oral History Form - After discussion, the members agreed to vote on a draft and cover letter at our May meeting.

Cemetery - The Mass. General Laws Perpetual Care Part 1 Title XVI, Chapter 114, Section 20 Letter - Procurement Procedures - Jennifer read "basic information has been sent to the State Treasurer and only income can be used." The Town Clerk and Town Treasurer would have the information on how to get the money.

Cusky Pond - Deb recapped for Dick Reavey. Marjie said that the Mass Fisheries and Wildlife are trying to get the deed restrictions undone. Deb attended a meeting with Joe Chenevert, Donna Farmer (aide to Rep. Don Berthiaume), Jarod Craig (aide to Sen. Durant), Jim Brown, Tree Goulet, Terry Langelier and Richie Kennan. Conservation Commission member, Jim Brown, made the point "why aren't we seeing any documents since 2008?" The aides were

amazed that no one had talked to the abutters about this. A copy of the deed for the dam was given to Donna Farmer and Jarod. The Conservation Commission will reach out to Senator Elizabeth Warren regarding the deed. The aides will share all the information with Rep. Berthiaume and Senator Durant and then proceed.

A letter from Caleb Slater of Fish and Wildlife dated March 28, 2024 was shared with the Selectmen and Conservation Commission. Joe would like Fish & Wildlife to attend a public meeting to discuss the issues surrounding the dam removal. Deb asked what we want to do as the Historical Commission? We can send letters or emails to Durant, Berthiaume, Sen. Warren, Sen. Ed Markey regarding an environmental impact study, endangered species report, and let them know that F&W should have maintained the dam.

Vault - Deb wrote up a plan to clean the books, place some in archival boxes etc. Once the plan is approved by town clerk Jess Bennett, we can begin the project this summer.

Other - John Hunter, who owns the Hunter Farm on Moore Road called Deb. He is coming to New Braintree on Saturday, April 27th around 10:45 a.m. There are two old school sites on this property which we can metal detect (Danny Woodaja). We can also look for arrowheads in a recently plowed field that hasn't been turned over since John can remember. John is also fine with us recording him.

DVD's - Dan Hamilton makes DVD copies of recordings for us for free. Dan will now have to charge \$25.00 each for this service. Julie Rousseau motioned to spend \$350.00 to make DVD's. Marjie seconded. Unanimous.

Donations - Karen Eissfeldt sent the Historical Commission a 1901 Anniversary Memorial Book. Invited speakers received a copy of this book. Rev. Henry Penniman and his daughter Grace attended. On page 89 Rev. Penniman edited a mistake. Deb will send a thank you and Deed of Gift to Karen Eissfeldt.

Former Senator Steve Brewer gifted a box of COST related information. Records from Rep. Grenier, Sen. Wetmore and Senator Brewer are among the files. Deb will send a thank you and Deed of Gift to Steve.

Our next meeting will be on May 2, 2024.
Meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Rousseau
Secretary