

Members:

Jennifer Karnakis, Chair
Christine Cochrane, Vice Chair
Roger Turner, Regular Member
Kathleen A. Birtwell, Regular Member
Justin Caron, Regular Member
Rob Doane, Associate Member
Michael Amaral, Associate Member



Walpole Historical Commission
Walpole Town Hall
135 School Street
Walpole, MA 02081

<http://www.walpole-ma.gov/walpole-historical-commission>

A meeting of the Walpole Historical Commission was held on January 23, 2020 at Walpole Town Hall, Room 116.

The following members were in attendance:

**Jennifer Karnakis, Regular Member, Chair
Christine Cochrane, Regular Member, Vice Chair
Roger Turner, Regular Member
Kathleen A. Birtwell, Regular Member
Justin Caron, Regular Member**

The following member was not in attendance: Michael Amaral, Associate Member.

Chair Jenn Karnakis opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. There were no appointments.

Correspondence: A notice from the CBRE (AT&T) concerning a local cell tower and other notices about upcoming historical workshops were also read and discussed.

No one was present for an open public forum.

Old Business:

Stories of Historic Walpole Project: Katie Birtwell told the group that she has been meeting and corresponding with both Tamarah Green of Walpole Media and Kerri McManama of the Council on Aging about

getting the project organized and started. A time and starting date for interviews will be determined soon.

Katie emphasized the importance of our ability to preserve these recordings and shared that Tamarah had recommended we purchase a 2 terabyte hard drive. Roger Turner said that he might be able to get one that he has on hand. Jenn Karnakis added that she can purchase stick drives for the project as these recordings...both aural and video....can be saved to Katie's laptop via stick drive after each interview session. Rob Doane volunteered to write a press release once the project is firmed up. Roger Turner suggested that we be sure to get interviews from Ted Hoegler, Joe Morgan, Charles Harding, and other seniors in town. Katie Birtwell said that we will make that happen, adding that Roger himself should be interviewed. Katie plans to transcribe interviews as they happen and make them available on the WHC website, if possible.

In this regard, Katie plans to interview seniors at the Senior Center first. Then, as the years toward Walpole 2024 continue, she can interview the veterans and Walpole citizens at large. The ultimate end products can be determined and created by the WHC and other agencies in town and may include books, films, powerpoints, graphic displays, online interviews, etc.

Budget: Our budget was submitted and Chair Jenn Karnakis told the group that we received \$315, the same as last year. She also added that we have asked for funding for a part-time secretary each year for the past six years and have received nothing. There has been no interest from anyone on the tax writeoff program.

Jenn said that she has heard nothing yet about Walpole 2024 but has let the appropriate persons in town government know that we are very interested in participating.

Jenn also related tht she was made aware of the 40B Summer Street project and that buildings in that area have already been torn down. She also received word of a postcard contest from the Massachusetts History Alliance and told the group that they will hold a June 1 conference at Holy Cross.

No demolition applications are pending at this time.

Jenn said that the WHC needs to nominate a person or persons for membership on the Old Town Hall Reuse Committee. She will tell them that we have two interested members.

Roger Turner is collecting information about Walpole's 1924 Memorial Bridge, Memorial Parks, and Memorial Pond. While working with the town Conservation agent, he plans to see two plaques placed in the area. He spoke about the history of the culvert and bridge. He will do further research and ask a member of the Walpole Historical Society to write about it.

Roger continues to work on his Lost Industries of Walpole project. Plaques will be placed on the former locations of Bird, Kendall, Fales, etc. as newcomers to town know little to nothing about them.

Chair Jenn Karnakis told the group that she will be working on the Town Building Inspection website to add further information about the WHC and its involvement when appropriate in the demolition permitting process.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned after a unanimous 5-0-0 vote at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Birtwell, Regular Member