

BOYLSTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Meeting –October 19, 2023

Present: Pat Bartram, Bruce Filgate, Nancy Filgate, Judy Haynes. David & Judy Bottom absent.

Meeting called to Order: 6:04 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:10 p.m.

Bruce Filgate, chairman, called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the September minutes. A motion was made to accept. It was seconded and approved.

Treasurer : Nancy indicated that the budget is on track.

Old Business – Update on Projects:

Civil War Veterans Buried in Pine Grove, Boylston: Nancy is in process of checking the list prepared by students and comparing to her records for accuracy.

Boylston Cemetery Research Consortium – 1223 outside contributions (86 this period); 734 edits researched and sent (5 this period); 3744 memorials managed. A cenotaph placed by Goodale family, Old Burial Ground; ca. 1700s, death and burial place unknown, though most family members are in West Boylston cemetery.

Macris: Pat will do the paper work, but photo cannot be done of the spring and area until the leaves are off the trees.

Collaborative Research Projects:

Artifact Project. Intern Patrick Flanagan continues with the computer work and Julia with preservation of artifacts. Saturday the interns will have a meeting with Nancy and she will ask Patrick to start training Julia on the computer. Interns work weekends: Saturday 9-12 and Sunday 2-4.

Revolutionary Soldiers research:

New researcher Jim Flagg meets with Nancy via Zoom. He indicated the Benjamin Flagg on our list is an 8-year-old and not a soldier. Research with Pat Bartram and Vicky Triolo, Nancy, Jim Flagg is well underway with a goal to complete research now and start writing in January. Nancy has reached out to see if more researchers are interested and could join the team.

Reports & collaboration in keeping with Galvin directives:

Boylston Community Preservation Act – no new updates this month.

Hillside Restoration Project: Recent water and falling plaster damage has been cleared and cleaned up at the Gough House. It is not known if a permanent fix to the roof and ceiling where seams of conservatory and sitting room come together has been completed or successful.

Historical District: No report. They meet only when changes are requested within the district.

Historical Collaboration: The Commission continues to collaborate with the **Historical Society** and Nancy reported on the multitude of activities underway. The Fall Fest was successful. Tours were given inside, a few books and notecards sold outside, and cider and donuts were enjoyed by visitors. Many compliments on all were received. “Women of the Valley” will be presented by Prof. Paul Marrone Sunday, October 22, 2-4. It has been publicized.

Master Plan. Nancy will continue to be on the committee with the focus on historic sites and to be sure that the master plan created is carried out as planned. No new meetings of the group yet.

Cemetery Preservation meeting with Western Mass., Central Mass., Eastern Mass., and MHC was held virtually Oct. 17. Nancy attended, took good notes and will obtain an estimate for cleaning and repair of gravestones in the Old Burial Ground. It was a very interesting presentation.

Ongoing operations - Maintenance:

- Roof repair or replacement is on the agenda with Bob Bourassa. He does need one more quote, but hopes to have it done this fall.
- Repointing and recessed lighting are still on hold for the moment. Nancy suggested over the winter we call on the fire department with the tall ladders to access the lights for replacement in the upper museum.

New Business:

- Reprinting of the Boylston Historical Series will not take place until another binder is found.

Nancy Filgate made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded, approved and the meeting ended at 7:10 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: November 16, 2023

Respectfully submitted, Judith A. Haynes, Secretary