

BOYLSTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Meeting –February 15, 2024

Present: Patricia Bartram, Judy Bottom, David Bottom, Bruce Filgate, Nancy Filgate, and Judy Haynes

Meeting called to Order: 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:44 p.m.

Bruce Filgate, Chairman, called the meeting to order at the Historic Town Hall.

Bruce asked that the January, 2024 minutes be reviewed. Nancy moved to accept the minutes and David Bottom seconded. They were approved.

Treasurer : Nancy advised the budget is in good shape and shared the information. The budget is on target.

Update on Projects:

Letters of Thanks regarding Caroling on the Common: Pat prepared excellent thank you letters and received approval from the commissioners to have these put on letterhead and posted.

Civil War Gravestone Veteran Markers: Veterans have been identified. Once snow is gone the sites will be checked to see if markers need to be replaced as needed.

Cemetery Commission: Current standings: 3,754 memorials managed; 89 edits made; memorials added the past month (28); photos added. The Old Burial Ground is complete.

Historical Collaboration: The Commission continues to collaborate with the **Historical Society**. Nancy continues to oversee the interns with Patrick digitizing information at year 1986. Julia is concentrating on the archives. A box of Reed/Andrews family papers was found in the archives with no accession numbers. Two volunteers will be working on these items to determine what they are and to lead to accession numbers and cataloging. Two new volunteer students will start working at BHSM later this week.

Revolutionary Soldiers research continues with a talented team. Pat announced the goal is to finish the research by March and then begin writing a book regarding The Boylston soldiers who answered the alarm on April, 1775.

Community Preservation Committee update. Judy Haynes reported there is one project to be presented to the town for consideration of CPC and town monies. This project is from Parks and Recreation and includes improvements and new additions to Manor Park as well as other town recreation sites.

Hillside Restoration Project has been asked by WBAC, local TV channel, to film inside the Gough House. Nel Lazour is coordinating. She has contacted high school students to be a part of the project. Consideration to use the Gough House for a senior center is also underway.

The **Historic District** has no report.

Future Projects:

- The Physician's House and spring on that property should be photographed as well as other town historic sites. Update MACRIS. This should be started in good weather.
- Until displays are no longer on exhibit, the overhead bulbs cannot be replaced. Fire Dept. will help when ready.
- Last copy of Boylston Historical Series has been sold. Commissioners are searching for a Massachusetts bindery.

New Business:

Boylston Finance Committee will meet with BHC chair (Bruce Filate) to review the budget for the coming year.

The BHC chair will check to see if Steve Mero or person in charge of the Old Burial Ground has money in the town's cemetery budget to reset some of the old fallen gravestones. Commissioners would like to see the Old Burial Ground in good shape for the 250th anniversary of the April, 1775 call to arms.

NEXT EXPECTED MEETING: March 21, 2024. Respectfully submitted, Judith A. Haynes, Secretary