

BOYLSTON HISTORIC COMMISSION

Boylston Historic Town Hall

7 Central Street, Boylston MA 01505

Meeting of January 18, 2024

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Bruce Filgate, Chair; Patricia Bartram; David Bottom; Judy Bottom; and Nancy Filgate

NOT PRESENT: Judy Haynes (illness)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

VOTED: To accept the minutes of 11/16/23.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Nancy Filgate presented an update on the Commission budget, which showed total expenditures to date of \$4,876.10 from an annual budget of \$13,200, leaving a remaining balance of \$8,513.80. The most recent large expenditures were \$3,700 toward the roof repairs and \$650 for electricity, both relating to Historic Town Hall Maintenance. Mrs. Filgate noted that there will be upcoming expenditures in the Artifact Photographing Project.

ANNUAL REPORT: The Chair shared copies of the annual report of the Boylston Historic Commission, which has been submitted to the Town.

FIND A GRAVE: The Chair reported on BHC's recent activity on this site. The Commission "owns"/manages 3,755 memorials in total and makes dozens of edits each month to these. A total of 1,220 additional contributions have been made (55 this period) by the BHC to outside-managed memorials. A further total 785 edits have been researched and sent (89 this period).

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS:

Artifact Photographing Project: Mrs. Filgate reported that this project moving right along, in large part thanks to the work of our student interns who are doing great, detailed work.

Revolutionary War Soldiers Research: Mrs. Bartram reported that this research project is pleased to have recently added several new researchers to this work. They continue to meet weekly to discuss progress and their work. They are currently working toward completing the basic research on the men who "answered the Alarm" for Boylston on April 19, 1775, which is nearly complete. The next phase will then be to write the narratives about these men (47 men in total). It is planned that all of this information, including information about that period of time in Boylston and what answering the Alarm entailed, will be made into one book – Revolutionary War Soldiers of Boylston, Massachusetts, Vol. 1: Those Who Marched on the Alarm. The intent is then to carry on doing the research and writing for two additional volumes, one relating to the Revolutionary Soldiers who are buried in the Old Burying Ground, and one relating to the others who served during the remainder of the Revolutionary War (another approximate 50 men). The group is mindful that the 250th anniversary of the outbreak of the

War (Battles of Concord and Lexington) will be April 19, 2025, and intends to have at least the first two of these publications ready by that time.

BOYLSTON HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION: This board was consulted and gave advance approval of the updates that were made to the Historic Town Hall roof.

BOYLSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM, INC.:

- A team of four people is researching and writing the “Friday’s Fascinating Finds” articles that are being published/distributed weekly, focusing on the artifacts of the BHSM.
- Several new research projects have been identified and outlined, with a couple of researchers beginning that work. One such project relates to a recent acquisition of family papers from a descendant of the Ball family, which includes deeds dating back to the 1700s.
- Along with other town organizations and groups, the BHSM participated in the town wide “Caroling on the Common” event on December 9, 2023. Specifically, BHSM volunteers provided the materials and helped children to make Christmas ornaments during the pre-caroling event in the Congregational Church’s Fellowship Hall (other groups helped with cookie decorating).
- The BHSM needs someone to take on the activity of regularly backing up the computer system.

HISTORIC TOWN HALL: The roof was repaired in advance of the first major snowfall of 2024. The mortar lines need to be reviewed for repointing. Some ceiling lights on the second floor need bulb replacement, which will need to be done during a BHSM display changeover.

NEW BUSINESS: It was asked if letters of appreciation could be prepared to send to several organizations that have been responsive to requests for assistance by the BHC. Mrs. Bartram brought up the ongoing request to have Wi-Fi made available in the Historic Town Hall. She volunteered to investigate getting that done.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Kelleher Bartram