

Bridgewater Historical Commission

Minutes 11/23/2022

Meeting opened 6:10 (virtual)

Attendance: David Moore, Matt Casey, Geoff Merriman

The meeting was a continuation of the 11/16/2022 meeting which was continued because of technical difficulties with David's equipment.

1. Matt reported that he is still polishing the letter to the council on the status of the Commission and hopes to get it over to the clerk's office soon. He will let us know when it is ready for signatures.
2. Geoff reported that the CPC is still working on the application of the Methodist Church. The church is refining its application. The Congregational Church, recipient of CPC funding for repairs to the steeple is beginning phase 2 of the project. CPC has received an inquiry from the folks working on Jennings's Hill Cemetery for a \$6500 Historic Preservation Grant. He also inquired about the Summer Street Cemetery and previous Historical Commission involvement. David reported that some time ago he believed that the Improvement Assoc or Cultural Arts Council had funded the purchase of materials for the signs in the cemeteries and possibly the repainting of the signs by the students at Bristol Plymouth. The Historical Commission has issued letters of support for the project.
3. David reported that he had spoken with Allison and Jedd at the library concerning continuing of HC meetings in the library historical room. The room is currently still under renovation and they are waiting for new shelving units. It was briefly discussed that virtual meetings have their advantages so it will be further discussed in the future. There may be a way to work out hybrid meetings, for everyone's convenience.
4. David reported that the historical display on the lower level of the library presently features the history of the Memorial Building. Renovations are near complete and being held up by the delivery of materials for the front entry. The next display will be on Civil War artifacts. Allison is working with Estell Wensel in collecting interviews of Bridgewater veterans for local preservation and submission to the Veteran's History Project with the Library of Congress.
5. Geoff asked a question about Jenny Leonard Park on Cherry Street. David had a brief history of the park and what he knew of the current plans. As far as he knew the land was going to be incorporated into the parkland/open space for the adjoining subdivision. The entrance to the park was currently planned to be from a footpath from a parking area in the subdivision and not from the previous entrance along Cherry Street. David expressed his opinion that police surveillance and emergency access were needed from Cherry Street to ensure the future success of the park. Those two issues seem to be key factors in the demise of the former playground and that of Rainbows End.
6. David reported the contents of the storage locker on Perkins Ave have been turned over to the library for preservation. Allison, David, and Geoff had moved the contents into the former trustees' meeting room back in October.

7. Geoff reported that he is still working with Steve Rogan on gaining access to the Facebook Historical Commission page.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 and the next virtual meeting will be on December 20, 2022.