



Bellingham Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes, Monday, September 18, 2023
Location: Historical Museum, 3 Common Street

Attendance

In Person Present Members: Franco Tocchi, Rick Marcoux, Jeffrey Prescott, Bernadette Rivard, Steve Joanis, Jennifer Russo, Marjorie Turner Hollman **Members Absent:** None **Guest:** John Murphery, Sr. Tax Work Off Program Staff

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rick Marcoux at 5:02 pm.

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

Marjorie Turner Hollman made a motion to approve the minutes of the June meeting. The motion was seconded by Steve Joanis and was unanimously adopted.

Budget Update

Municipal Budget

Starting Balance \$7,000.00 Expenditures \$ 28.88 Ending Balance \$6971.12

Expenditures by Month

July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
0.00	28.88										

Expenses since last meeting paid from municipal budget

Date	Vendor	Amount	Description
8/18/2023	Amazon Business	28.88	Flash Drives to Store Photos to Transfer Files

Bills received but not paid

None

Gift Fund

Starting Balance \$2233.23 Deposits \$ 40.00 Expenditures \$ 0 Ending Balance \$2273.23

Correspondence: None

Old Business

Hours & Sr. Tax Work Off Staff Update

Our fall hours started after Labor Day, they are:

Tuesdays from 9:30-12:30 – Staffed by Marjorie Turner Hollman under the Sr. Tax Work Off Program

2nd and 4th Saturdays from 9:30-12:30 – Staffed by Carol George under the Sr. Tax Work Off Program

Other Sr. Tax Work Off Staff

John Murphery – Spent 80 hours over the summer organizing the basement. His spreadsheet of the basement contents was included with the meeting materials. John spent a few minutes talking about his work to the group.

Lauren Hummel is working on organizing the inventory paperwork as well as photograph files.

Marjorie also created a PowerPoint presentation with photos from the Mass Memories Road Show

Upcoming Programming

We decided to skip doing a history discussion group this fall and concentrate on offering a Genealogy Program in January or February. It will hopefully be a collaborative program between Gabrielle Laplante, who has done a family history book, Jennifer Russo, commission member with extensive family history experience.

Crimpsville Comments – Discussed plan for next issue. We had discussed doing a baseball topic, but decided to delay that topic until the spring. Details on that topic will include: article about Robert “Satch” McDaniel, BHS class of 1971 Basketball player; article about the Bellingham Farmers and other sports topics. Bernadette will coordinate with Ken Hamwey on topics. The fall topic will be on Governor Bellingham and the Bellingham Cemeteries. In that discussion Jennifer Russo informed the group that she is updating the “Find A Grave” database with information about Bellingham cemetery grave location.

Museum Guide Book – Is completed and copies will be available at the for a suggested donation of \$5. There will be a museum use only copy available for visitors to use while they are touring the building.

Railings for Main Entry – We are awaiting for final information from Champion Fence. Bernadette will contact Champion Fence and ask them to contact Tim Aicardi, Building Inspector.

New Business

Historical Marker Grant Funding – Marjorie and Bernadette met with Cori Frongillo of the Franklin/Bellingham Friends of SNETT to discuss historical markers along the SNETT. There are grants to fund these projects. We will look at the next grant deadline and try to determine if we are ready to apply at that time.

Building & Grounds – The new sign is installed and is effective in letting people know that the building is a museum. The town will be installing an electronic sign on the grass where there is currently a plywood prototype of the size and location of the sign. It is anticipated that we will be able to use that sign to promote museum hours and events. In addition, the town is forming a committee to plan the design of the outdoor space in front of the museum. Bernadette will serve on the committee and notify all commission members of the meeting dates so if anyone else would like to attend, they can.

Update on Museum Organization – The work John Murphery has done has greatly assisted in documenting the items that are in the basement. We are planning, once we can verify with the town the process, to hold an auction to dispose of items that are of monetary value, but no historical value to the Town of Bellingham.

Long Term Storage Plan – At this point there is no formal plan for long term storage, will reassess in the future.

Recording Bellingham History – Marjorie Turner Hollman has proposed she spend time with Bruce Lord, interviewing him to get his Bellingham story. The plan is for Marjorie to record her interview sessions with him, get the interview transcribed and turn the interview into a narrative. **Bernadette made a motion, that was seconded by Jeffrey Prescott to approve Marjorie using Tax Work Off Hours to work on this project. The motion passed unanimously.** Her first task will be to talk to Bruce about the scope of the project and then do the interview. Jennifer suggested recording the interview over Zoom as there is a transcribe feature built into Zoom that can make a draft of the interview.

Steve Joans made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:47 pm. It was seconded by Franco Tocchi and unanimously adopted.

Next meeting date: October 16, 2023

Respectfully submitted,



Bernadette Rivard, Secretary