

Hadley Historical Commission Minutes for February 23, 2016 Compiled by Jeffrey Mish

Members Present: Jeffrey Mish, Ginger Goldsbury, Linda Ziegenbein, Marjorie Pratt Townsend, Margaret Freeman, Kate Kentfield

Members Absent: Tom McGee

Meeting came to order at 7:02 with Freeman approving the January minutes, Goldsbury seconded.

Letter to the Massachusetts Historical Commission

A letter written by Margaret Freeman and Jeffrey Mish has been sent to the Massachusetts Historical Commission, regarding the vote to tear down Hooker School in order to build a new library in its place. At the meeting, Freeman mentioned that Hooker School, which is currently the Hadley Senior Center, received federal funds when it was established as a senior center, meaning that it cannot be demolished for a period of at least twenty years from the date of receiving such funds. According to Freeman, the twenty year period has not yet expired.

Budget

Ginger Goldsbury reported that the Historical Commission budget consists of: \$800 for surveys, \$1,800 for cleaning historical records, \$350 for programs/lectures, and \$100 for office supplies. The Historical Commission also receives \$30,000 of CPA money per year.

Linda Ziegenbein suggested that the Commission request to the Finance Committee that the \$1,800 allotted for record cleaning (a holdover from a project completed years ago) be used for other ventures, such as student/public engagement.

Poster

Goldsbury mentioned that Jason Johnson (a Leeds resident) showed her some Leeds history posters that his friend, Heidi, helped design. Goldsbury suggested that the Commission work on a similar project, creating posters depicting the history of various parts of town.

Kate Kentfield suggested that the Commission decide what they want as the final product before deciding upon what area of town to pursue first.

Pamphlet

The Commission decided to update their pamphlet at the December 2015 meeting.

Ziegenbein suggested that the pamphlet have the Commission's website in it, a bibliography of books about Hadley, and an accompanying audio tour.

The pamphlet will have maps and pictures, meaning that the Commission may have to contact outside sources to accomplish such tasks.

All Commission members are supposed to come the March 22, 2016 meeting with a list of what they want in, and out, of the pamphlet.

The Commission is setting a tentative deadline for the pamphlet's release as Fall 2016 (possibly at the Asparagus Festival).

Greenwich, Connecticut House

Goldsbury received an E-Mail from University of Vermont graduate student, Ben Haley, inquiring about an eighteenth century salt-box house moved to Greenwich, Connecticut from Hadley circa 1950. No one on the Commission had knowledge of this event, and suggested that Haley look for evidence in newspaper databases.

Jeffrey Mish preformed an online search for the aforementioned house, finding that it is well documented in the Mount Holyoke College Archives and Special Collections:

“The Irene Gillette Steiner Papers consist of scrapbooks regarding the history of the house from its building on the corner of West Street and Cemetery Road in Hadley between 1692 and 1710 (probably by Aaron Cooke), to its restoration in Greenwich in 1952. Included is a typescript history dated February 14, 1992 illustrated with photographs taken when the house was moved. The second volume contains documentary evidence of the house's history: letters (1952-1965), deeds (1692-1938), wills (1686-1889) and town meeting warrants (1761-1772). Handwritten documents are accompanied by transcriptions. All documents except the warrants and letters are copies.” From:

http://asteria.fivecolleges.edu/findaids/mountholyoke/mshm172_scope.html

Ziegenbein made a motion to adjourn at 8:30, Goldsbury seconded.