

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

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

Guest: Dan Regish

Meeting came to order at 7:05 with Kentfield approving the July minutes, McGee seconded.

### Russell School

Building Committee member, Dan Regish, showed up to discuss his concern about the status of Russell School in regard to preservation, defining a commission as “putting history into action.”

Tom McGee asked Regish about the status of the tell-tale gauges on Russell School in relation to the Route 9 construction work, to which Regish replied that the tell-tale gauges were not being monitored, but suspected that the construction work was having an impact on Russell School.

Regish mentioned that Russell School is currently being rented by the engineering firm that is working on Route 9.

Regish said that the majority of the Building Committee believes that Russell School is an iconic building, but it is not a top priority for them at the moment, putting the safety complex and library ahead of Russell School.

Ginger Goldsbury asked Regish if the storm windows had been replaced, and if he thought the building’s foundation was critical. Regish said that the windows had not been replaced, but should immediately; also stating that he believed that the foundation was critical on account of water damage. Russell School does not have a gutter, causing water to get into the building. McGee said that the installation of a French Gutter could solve the problem.

Regish mentioned that the Building Committee will be scheduling tours of town buildings soon and suggested that it would be beneficial to have a Historical Commission member present. No date has been set.

In response to Regish’s call to “put[ting] history into action,” the Commission is sending a letter to the town, requesting the allotted budget for the maintenance of Russell School. The letter will also ask if the tell-tale gauges are being monitored, and by whom, requesting a full report on their readings, as well as increased monitoring due to the Commission’s concern about the work on Route 9.

The Commission plans to use the Russell School budget to work on the foundation, windows, and roof of the building, being cited by Regish and the 2013 Old Mohawk report, as in need of the most critical repairs.

Regish will ask Andy Klepacki if the DRA and Old Mohawk reports can be used as a “general scope” for restoration costs, and Goldsbury will ask Old Mohawk what it will cost to update their survey of Russell School.

### Electronic Filing

The Planning Board is migrating to an electronic filing system. The Commission responded positively, requesting that site-plans be sent in PDF format, stipulating that presenters still come to meetings with their own hardcopy. The Commission only wants updates and final copies of site plans if they pertain to historic structures or Commission decisions.

### Miscellaneous

The Commission decided to get quotes from local graphic designers for the Hadley History Matters logo. The launch of the logo is to co-inside with the 5k Farmland Race on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

The Route 9 Corridor Improvement Project asked the Commission to review their mass transit routes. The Commission will notify them that they have no objection to the plan.

Goldsbury attended a Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, where Greenbaum, winner of the North Hadley Hall bid, presented plans to change his proposal to buy the ballfield/greenspace next to the building as well. He was told to go to the Selectmen.

David Nixon asked Marjorie Pratt Townsend if there was anyone in Hadley's past who was associated with the women's suffrage movement, as the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment is approaching (passed in 1919, ratified in 1920, archives.gov). Tom McGee will bring the question to the Historical Society.

Linda Ziegenbein responded to a request from Kevin Hill to use a metal detector on the Common, informing him that such an act is illegal without an archaeological permit. She also offered him the chance to come to the meeting.

Ziegenbein made a motion to adjourn at 9:20, all seconded.