



Historic Preservation Commission

Town Hall
Bedford, MA 01730
781-275-1111

Minutes of Meeting of 9/5/2023 (held in person at Town Hall)

Commission Members Present: Alethea “Lee” Yates (Chair), Don Corey, David Goldbaum, John Linz, Stephanie Keep, Jessie McAleer.

There is one vacancy on the Commission.

Visitors: None.

Meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM.

1. There were no **public comments**. No members of the public were present.
2. The **meeting minutes** of 08/01/2023 were moved, seconded, and approved, 5-0-1.
3. **Financial Report**. There were no expenditures in FY24 and no money was encumbered. A full \$1,330 is available.
4. **Demolition Delay**. No demo delay applications received.
5. **Bedford’s status as an MHC Certified Local Government (CLG)** Lee Yates, Don Corey, and John Linz met with Colleen Doyle (Interim Town Manager), Charlie Ticotsky (Special Assistant to the Town Manager) and discussed two proposals: (1) have a town employee assigned to do our paperwork, or (2) let us out of the program. We were notified that no clerical help was available and a letter with information is being drafted to send to Charlie to present to the Select Board..
6. **Michael Bacon House**, 229 Old Billerica Road. No updates.
7. **Article 56, Tax Deferral Bylaw**. Lee Yates, Don Corey, and John Linz met with Colleen Doyle (Interim Town Manager), Charlie Ticotsky (Special Assistant to the Town Manager), and Matt Lanefski (Assessing Department Director) to discuss Article 56. The recommendation is to present at the Spring 2024 town meeting, and not Fall 2023 because of the transition at the Town Manager’s Office.
8. **House plaques**. David Goldbaum has purchased material to make up blanks for Sign Effects. He will contact Sign Effects (978 633 1787) to ask for a quote on lettering the blanks.
9. **Proposed Interpretive Signs (including Shawsheen cemetery)** The Spring Town Meeting warrant will close in January. Budget will be “set in stone” by then. Will need to apply (via DPW) for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding ahead of January. David Manugian (Director of Public Works) suggested we get a complete proposed list that we can bundle and apply to CPA.

Lee Yates presented a suggested list of sites to prioritize. These were discussed and added to. The resulting list (in priority order) is:

- Shawsheen Cemetery
- Bedford Springs
- Old Burying Ground
- Fitch Tavern*
- Michael Bacon House*
- Union School/Town Center + Old Junior High/Town Hall
- Old Town Hall
- Reformatory Branch
- Hartwell Town Forest
- Old Reservoir
- Nike site on Old Causeway Road*
- Lexington Park*
- Hanscom Field

* private property

Lee Yates raised the question of whether we could apply for signs at some of these sites that are private property. Do we need to get permission before applying? Don Corey suggests applying first and asking later.

Lee Yates will work on Old Burying Ground; Don Corey will work on Old Reservoir; David Goldbaum will work on Michael Bacon; Stephanie Keep will work on Fitch Tavern. Goal is to send drafts around before the next meeting.

10. Status of Municipal Properties

- **Job Lane Farm Museum:**
 - Had a successful Family Field Day on Sunday, August 27. Wasn't quite as busy as last year, but it was well attended and people enjoyed themselves. The ice-cream was a particular hit.
 - Roof replacement was successfully completed just before Field Day.
 - The Facilities Department will be requesting funding at the Annual Meeting (Spring) from the CPA to replace the siding on the house.
 - The Facilities Department is consulting with the Town IT Department to get WiFi enabled. It should be able to get installed quickly once IT agrees.
- **Depot Park:** The Depot Park Building is in need of some major restoration including foundation repairs and repainting/lead paint mitigation. The Select Board has approved \$75K of CPA funds. Working on contracts now.
- **Cemeteries--Old Burying Ground & Shawsheen:** No update

11. Status of Projects

- **Town Museum** will officially open on Bedford Day. The Historical Society is busy at work to make the grand opening happen!
- **Community Preservation** no updates.

12. Other--

- **New Business** Lee Yates discovered that the trail leading to the **Bacon-Fitch Mill** is being maintained and is poison-ivy-free! She suggests a sign at the trailhead: "Mill Site This Way." Don Corey suggested asking Sign Effects to make a small sign along the lines of the entrance site to the Job Lane House parking lot on North Road. Lee Yates will investigate.
- **Bills & Correspondence**
 - Freedom's Way National Heritage Area sent notification of a Partnership Grant Program. Applications open on 10/1.
 - Hanscom -- Plans for ownership of several buildings to transfer from Hanscom to MIT. All buildings had to be assessed for National Registry. Building 1715 is on the Bedford part of Hanscom and is eligible for National Registry. Hanscom reached out to MHC to seek support for their proposal to include legal language to ensure that preservation will carry over in this and any future transfers.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 3 at 7:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Keep, Clerk