



Historic Preservation Commission

Town Hall
Bedford, MA 01730
781-275-1111

Minutes of Meeting of 10/03/2023 (held in person at Town Hall)

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

There is one vacancy on the Commission.

Visitors: Paul Mortenson

Meeting was called to order at 7:36 PM.

1. There were no **public comments**. No members of the public were present.
2. The **meeting minutes** of 09/05/2023 were moved, seconded, and approved, 5-0-0.
3. **Financial Report**. There have been no expenditures in FY24. A full \$1,330 is available.
4. **Demolition Application(s)**

On 10/02/23, Scott Gould notified Ms. Yates that a demolition request was fulfilled when it should have come before the committee. The main residence (1935) at 39 Concord Road has already been demolished, though the 14x24 outbuilding (pre 1860s), which may have been a shop at one point, remains at present.

5. **HPC Annual Report**

HPC annual report has been prepared by John Linz and reviewed by Lee Yates. Report expands its coverage of Job Lane oversight and explains current interpretive sign project.

6. **Bedford's status as an MHC Certified Local Government (CLG).**

Then Interim Town Manager, Colleen Doyle, presented our request to withdraw or get assistance fulfilling the paperwork at the Select Board meeting on September 11, 2023. After some discussion, Select Board vote was taken to withdraw the town from the program. Lee Yates will review and complete steps to officially withdraw.

7. **Michael Bacon House**, 229 Old Billerica Road. Nothing new to report.
8. **Article 56, Tax Deferral Bylaw**. Nothing new to report, though John Linz suggested that he, Lee Yates, and Don Corey, arrange a meeting with the new town manager, Matthew Hanson, to brief him on the plans. He will call the office to try to find a time.
9. **House plaques.**

- Resident at 7 Hartford Street wants a sign and found a vendor on Etsy.com that can make her a plaque. Lee Yates will reconnect with her to explain that we do not need

to approve her sign, but that we can confirm the date of her house as 1924. We will also ask for the name of the vendor to review as a potential vendor for wider use.

- David Golbbaum prepared small blanks for Sign Effects, but has not yet made arrangements with them or received pricing, though he plans to.

10. Proposed Interpretive Signs

- Drafts for signs circulated by Lee Yates (Old Burying Ground), Don Corey (Old Reservoir & Ring Well), and Stephanie Keep (Fitch Tavern). Ideas for visuals were discussed, including photographs from the Bedford Historical Society and new photographs taken for the purpose.
- Committee will review the current drafts and Lee Yates, Don Corey, and Sharon MacDonald will continue drafting.

11. Municipal Properties:

- Cemeteries: Old Burying Ground & Shawsheen -- nothing new to report.
- Depot Park -- nothing new to report.
- Job Lane Farm Museum
 - Museum had a successful booth at Bedford Day.
 - Two more open houses remain: 10/8 and 10/22, then the house (and gardens) will be shut down and winterized.
- Bacon-Fitch Mill Site, 95 Old Billerica Road
 - Lee Yates revisited the trailhead and placed an improvised "Trail Head" sign. She posted a notice on Facebook to notify the town.
 - She requested a price from Sign Effects for a permanent sign.

12. Old Business.

- **Town Museum.**
 - Official Open House held on Bedford Day as well as a preview for members. Both events were successes.
 - Current ground floor exhibit is "Bedford at Work."
- **Community Preservation Committee.**
 - A meeting was held on 9/13. Major topic of discussion was the plan to replace public library systems to be fully electric.
 - Currently accepting applications for funding to be considered at the November 2023 special town meeting.

13. New Business. Nothing new.

14. Bills & Correspondence.

- The Commonwealth of MA wrote to let us know that it's the beginning of the NHC fiscal year and grant cycle for Certified Local Governments or surveying/planning.

- An individual wrote to offer free services to preserve a gravestone as an audition for more work. Will forward to DPW.

Next meeting: **Tuesday, November 14** at 7:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Keep, Clerk