



Historic Preservation Commission

**Town Hall
Bedford, MA 01730
781-275-1111**

Minutes of Meeting of 07/11/2023 (held in person at Town Hall)

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

There is one vacancy on the Commission.

Visitors: None.

Meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM.

1. There were no **public comments**. No members of the public were present.
2. The **meeting minutes** of 06/06/2023 were moved, seconded, and approved, 4-0-0 .
3. **Financial Report.**
 - There were no expenditures in FY23 and no money was encumbered. Now that FY24 is begun, a full \$1,330 is available.
 - In the past, the budget was largely used to pay for newspaper notices about HPC’s public hearings. However, given the absence of local print publications, it is not clear if such notices will be required in the future. At John Linz’s request, the Acting Town Manager is looking into the matter.
4. **Demolition Delay.** The demolition application for 10 Webber Avenue has been withdrawn.
5. **Michael Bacon House**, 229 Old Billerica Road. John has asked Atty. Pamela Brown to attend an HPC meeting to provide an update.
6. **Article 56, Tax Deferral Bylaw.**
 - John met with the Assessors last month to discuss the proposed changes. They asked if the bylaw is intended to cover mixed-used properties; this has not yet been determined. They also expressed concern that the bylaw might increase their workload.
 - It is unclear whether the bylaw can be brought before Fall Town Meeting, given that the new Town Manager might not be hired in time to become fully acquainted with all the articles that could be brought put onto the agenda.
7. **House plaques.** Stephanie Keep will contact Crosby Signs in Concord to see if they might be willing to make plaques.
8. **Shawsheen Cemetery.**
 - John and Lee Yates met with DPW Director David Manugian to discuss the proposed interpretive sign. He stated that HPC might be able to divide the cost of the sign over two years’ budgets. Alternatively, he suggested making a list of all interpretive signs that HPC would like to propose and then asking the Community Preservation Committee fund them all at once. John says that we would need to come up with text and images for all the signs, and also prioritize them in case they can’t all be funded. We would need to make it a project.

- The DPW is working on an expansion study of the Shawsheen Cemetery.

9. **Reorganization.** The group needs time to consider. Will pursue the matter at the next meeting.

10. **Job Lane House.**

- John has spoken with Ron Scaltreto, Assistant Director of Facilities, about installing wifi in the house. He says it is feasible but will need to discuss it with the IT Department.
- John give Ron a JLH calendar to assist in scheduling the roof replacement.
- A cleanup day will have to be scheduled for after the roof replacement.
- Possible signs of carpenter ants have been seen in the garden shed. Facilities will send a pest service to investigate when weather permits.
- A permit has been obtained to construct the proposed shed for the new farm equipment. It will be 12'x8', with 4"x4" posts, no sides, and a gravel floor.
- The Directors of Friends of the Job Lane House are working on updating the barn rental policy.

11. **Town Museum.** Nothing new

12. **Community Preservation Committee.** There have been no meetings.

13. **Correspondence.** The Massachusetts Historical Commission has asked for updated contact information for all HPC members. John will respond.

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 1 at 7:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Alethea Yates, Acting Clerk