



## Town of Wilbraham Historical Commission

### Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Tuesday, April 23, 2019

**Time:** 7 pm

**Location:** Wilbraham Town Hall, Conference Room 1

**Attendees:** Roberta Albano, Charlie Bennett, Ted Malysz, Diane Testa, Art Wolf

#### **Summary of Meeting:**

##### 1. Restoration of Old Meeting House

Charlie Bennett updated the commission on the projects to be undertaken at the Old Meeting House. Their total budget for the restorations is about \$18K, which will cover repairs to the flooring, an upgrade to the boiler, and repairs to the Hearse House roof & painting of its exterior.

Peter Ablondi of the Athenaem Society is coordinating much of these repairs. Don Boucier is trying to locate a place to store the hearse while the renovations are taking place.

On May 5, 2019 the Athenaem Society will have its first Open House of the year at the Old Meeting House with a talk by Charlie Johnson, who used to work at the old Johnson's Bookstore in Springfield.

##### 2. Signage for Wilbraham's center district

Diane Testa reported on conversations with Theodora Ryan at Wilbraham-Monson Academy regarding their signage on their campus. Teddy Ryan is the Director of Marketing and Communications for WMA. The Historical Commission would like the town historic signs to complement the Academy's signs. WMA has used Agnoli Sign of Springfield and SignLife of North Haven, CT for their campus signs.

Diane spoke extensively with Harry at Agnoli Signs to ask about designing a historic sign with their company. Their company has designed town signs for Springfield, Agawam, Chicopee and others in the area. Harry suggested the sign be made of a composite material – a high density sign foam – that can be carved and painted. A metal sign is an option but not as common. The company would provide a metal pole with the sign for hanging. The company can also perform installation of the sign for an additional \$800. In 2014 Agnoli Signs made a sign for Liberty Street in Springfield for \$3000 that was a 4' x 6' gateway sign.

Diane Testa also called New England Promotional Marketing twice to inquire about sign creations, but has not heard back from them.

Diane will try to get Harry from Agnoli Signs to come to its next Commission meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup>. We will discuss with them if we can lock in a price now for future signs that the Commission would like to create when additional funds are in the budget.

Art Wolf mentioned that the Commission can apply for funds this year through the CPC. Applications are due by mid-January but can be made at any time. Decisions on funding are made by the CPC by mid-May. Heather Kmelius in Town Hall has the applications. Diane Testa will talk with Nancy Johnson at Town Hall about spending the Commission's funds on a sign for this fiscal year. The Commission will also need a vector file from the Town containing an image of the historic seal for the Town.

Ideas were discussed about future signage for the town, such as beautifying the triangle at the north end of town where Boston Road meets Main Street and Maple Street.

### 3. Wilbraham Public Library

The Historical Commission would like to create a certificate noting the historic nature of the Wilbraham Public Library, given 50 years in its present building, and more than 100 years of service to the Town. Charlie Bennett will look into the history of the library, in particular its year of first opening, and work to create a certificate recognizing the library's contribution to the Town of Wilbraham.

### 4. Memorial School

The Commission discussed the historic nature of Memorial School and whether the school should be preserved as a town building in some capacity, such as a senior center. The Historical Commission believes the Town needs to evaluate the historic nature of the school before any discussion of changes or demolition to the building was made. The Commission will send a notice to the Board of Selectmen, the Town Planner, and Heather Kmelius (secretary to the Town Administrator) asking to be included in discussions related to Memorial School, and these folks should contact Ted Malysz at 596-2743 when such a discussion were to take place.

### 5. Future Town By-Law for Historic Buildings

Bobbi Albano mentioned again the by-law that some towns have that allows for a delay of demolition of a town building, should it have some historical significance for that town. The Town of Wilbraham has need for such a by-law. The Historic Commission would like to take the steps to initiate the creation of this by-law for the town, so Art Wolf will be looking into this process.

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