



Town of Wilbraham Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Time: 7 pm

Location: Wilbraham Town Hall, Conference Room 1

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

Summary of Meeting:

1. Signage for Wilbraham's center district

The Commission members believe this signage project is a one-time endeavor so we are comfortable requesting a large sum of money for next year's budget, perhaps on the order of \$15,000. We would potentially like 3 signs, one for the north end of Main Street, one for the south end of Main Street, and one for the easterly direction of Springfield Street. The Commission would like the signs to complement those on the campus of Wilbraham-Monson Academy. It was mentioned that depending on what budget the Commission is allotted, it may be wisest to purchase three high quality poles at the same time, so that if the Commission needs to create the signs in different budget years, the poles will be consistent with one another.

The Historical Commission would like to get on a future agenda for a Selectmen's meeting, to discuss our plans to put historical signs in the center of town – and to get their approval for the project. We are not sure that this project was ever approved by the Selectmen.

2. Historic Commission budget

The Commission has \$250 available to spend by June 30, 2019, and another \$3000 available to spend by June 30, 2020.

The Commission is looking to spend the \$250 on a plaque for the Wilbraham Public Library.

3. Plaque & Certificate for Wilbraham Public Library

The Historical Commission is looking into creating a plaque to present to the Wilbraham Public Library, noting their historical contribution to the town in its 100+ years of service. Charlie Bennett will contact The Awards Company on Sumner Ave. about creating such a plaque. The Commission would also like to place a framed letter next to the plaque in the library noting the contributions of the library to the town.

4. Memorial School – designation as historical building in town

The Commission is concerned about preserving the historic nature of Memorial School, *particularly given its name* in memoriam of residents who have served our country in World War II. The Commission would like to know if a study committee exists to decide what to do with Memorial School. Bobbi Albano will write up a statement for our Commission stating our concerns and interest in having representation in future study groups that will decide what to do with the School; this statement will be read at a future Selectmen's meeting. We would like the Selectmen to provide us with the present status of decisions regarding the building.

The Commission sees Memorial School as an excellent location for a senior center for many reasons. The building contains a gymnasium, a kitchen, a wood shop, and many separate rooms. The parking lot has plenty of parking spaces and lighting for nighttime use, and it is conveniently located near the center of town. The building could also house the Parks & Rec Department, and even a possible storage area for the town library's overflow books. If the building were not to be used as a senior center, the Commission would like to know what else does the town intends to do with it.

The Commission discussed what other towns have done to create senior centers for their residents. Apparently, Longmeadow has a by-law stating that their Historical Commission must be involved in decisions regarding buildings of historical significance.

5. Other business

Our next meeting is to be in June 2019.

Prepared by: Diane Testa
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May 21, 2019
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