



TOWN CLERK

**TOWN OF GRAFTON**  
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## MINUTES

Grafton Historical Commission  
7:00 PM, April 9, 2015  
Grafton Municipal Center, Conference E-2

A regular meeting of the Grafton Historical Commission was held on April 9, 2015.

### Members Present:

Ruth Anderson, Ann Morgan, David Therrien, Robert Aberg, Donna Girouard

### 1. Old Business

- A. Minutes -- the minutes of February 25, 2015 were presented for review. Dave Therrien moved to accept the minutes, as amended. Ruth Anderson seconded, the motion carried 5-0.
- B. Tercentenary Signs -- Ruth showed pictures of the three signs after sandblasting. Ann Morgan asked if the posts should be brought there as well. Dave Therrien to talk to Dave Crouse about it. Ann Morgan proposed to reinstall the Hassanamesit sign inside the common's fence by the North gate. Donna Girouard asked where the restored water trough should go, in order to consider placement of both items in one plan. Ann Morgan will put in an application form for this location. Dave Therrien made a motion for the commission to authorize Ann Morgan to fill in and sign an application for a certificate of appropriateness and request to meet with the Historic District Commission to discuss placement. Donna Girouard seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.
- C. Bills -- no bills.

### 2. New Business

- A. Historic Survey -- Ann Morgan proposed that we request a new historic inventory survey of Grafton and do an analysis of what has happened to the inventory between the 1980 / 1990 surveys and now. Ann Morgan is worried about a gradual deterioration of the town's historic assets. Additionally, Ann Morgan

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requested help with sorting and organizing the existing materials, perhaps via a workshop, potentially on a Saturday. The goal would be to have an application next spring for the inventory survey. Ann Morgan will call Chris Skelly at the Massachusetts Historical Commission, as he is the head of local resources for people who do surveys. He would also know the best technique for efficiently putting data from the survey into our GIS. A proposal is needed by February in order to be considered next spring, 2016.

- B. Cemetery Inventory – Ruth Anderson wanted to know if the Historical Commission is interested in having her daughter continue cataloging the Farnumsville cemetery. Donna Girouard will talk to Phil Johnson about the Eagle Scout project about 15 years ago for the Oak Street burial ground. Rob Aberg asked how the information from the cemetery inventory will be stored. An online format would be useful in order to make it available for online research with the Historic Commission's town web site (moving to Drupal soon) and transfer to other systems such as the town GIS historic layer, if desired. Ann Morgan cross-referenced Rita Martin's Oak Street work and moved to authorize Ellie Anderson to continue cataloging the Farnumsville cemetery. Donna Girouard seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
- C. Hassanamesit Woods – Ann Morgan said that Maria Mast is nearly ready to work on the Hassanamesit Woods property plan.
- D. Merriam Road – Ann Morgan suggested that the Historic Commission take photos of the Merriam Road frontage of the Churchill property before any construction begins so as to have a "before" status of the scenic road. This should be reviewed in the May meeting. Dave Therrien wants an interpretation of the scenic roads authority. Ann Morgan agreed to ask the Town Planner if the town counsel can provide an interpretation.
- E. Whitney Park -- Rob Aberg asked if Engine Company No. 2 would want to partner with the Historic Commission if it would help move the Stone Arch Bridge Project along.
- F. Multi-Town Workshop – Ruth Anderson proposed a multi-town historic workshop on topics including: scenic highways, historic inventory surveys, and artifact preservation.
- G. Historic Artifact Vault in Town Hall – Rob Aberg asked if the Historic Commission should propose that the town do something about the vault as it is not in a state to properly store historic artifacts. Dave Therrien noted that the vault lacks a vapor barrier and a light switch, and also that the Grafton Historical Society request a bid package but was denied. Donna Girouard agreed to search for the vault's CPC application, as she believes a mechanical package was in a previous bid in the neighborhood of \$40,000 but was missing in final bids. Ann Morgan suggested that Donna Girouard contact Joanne Duncan to get vault bid documents for heating/cooling, vapor barrier,

humidity control, floor barrier, and lighting switches. The Town House Oversight Committee should have information about the sprinkler zones being separate for the vault and the rest of the building in case the building sprinklers go off, the vault wouldn't need to go off.

**3. Executive Session**

None held.

**4. Schedule Next Meeting**

Next meeting scheduled for May 14, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

**5. Adjournment**

Ann Morgan moved to adjourn at 8:10 PM, seconded by Donna Girouard. Motion carried 5-0. Chair adjourned meeting at 8:10 PM.

List of Documents Used:

- Tercentenary sign restoration progress photos (3)

Minutes approved on: May 14, 2015 as amended

Submitted by Robert Aberg, Clerk, Grafton Historical Commission

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Aberg". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.



