



TOWN CLERK

**TOWN OF GRAFTON**  
GRAFTON MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER  
30 PROVIDENCE ROAD  
GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01519  
(508) 839-5335 ext. 1195  
[www.grafton-ma.gov](http://www.grafton-ma.gov)  
email: [clerks@grafton-ma.gov](mailto:clerks@grafton-ma.gov)

RECEIVED TOWN CLERK  
GRAFTON, MA  
2015 JAN 28 AM 8 52

## MINUTES

Grafton Historical Commission  
7:00 p.m., December 10, 2015  
Grafton Municipal Center, Conference Room B

A regular meeting of the Grafton Historical Commission was held on December 10, 2015.

Chairwoman Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

### Members Present:

Ruth Anderson, Ann Morgan, Robert Aberg, John Stephens, Donna Girouard,  
David Therrien, Mark Fobert

### 1. Old Business

- A. Minutes – the minutes of September 24, 2015 were not available for review.
- B. Bills – no bills.
- C. Tercentenary Sign update – Rob Aberg noted that (1) the Hassanamesit sign had been installed a few weeks earlier on the common in the agreed-upon location, and (2) the other two signs, “Indian Reservation” and “Thomas Hooker Trail”, had not been reinstalled yet. Mr. Aberg presented a document from the Grafton Historical Society’s archive by Mrs. C. M. Warren that indicated the Thomas Hooker sign’s previous location was not correct, and should instead be “on Providence Road in Farnumsville”. John Stephens indicated that Brook Padgett’s house has a marker stating “the trail went this way”. Ann Morgan supported the idea of rationalizing the right location through multiple sources, if possible. Mr. Aberg noted that the original Tercentenary Market Act document did not include specifics for the marker locations and that additional research would be needed, potentially at the state archives. John Stephens indicated the possibility that Steve Clark might now the right provenance for the marker location. Ann Morgan indicated that Don Clark might also have the needed information.

D. Stone Arch Bridge project update – John Stephens stated that the Station 2 North Grafton Fireman’s Association is the organization that has cleaned up the park as follows:

- Some tree removal has been done, completion would require approximately \$100,000 more
- Engineering input is needed as to the bridge’s integrity due to the presence of a large tree growing in the structure, plus the remains of a small dam immediately upstream

Mr. Stephens offered the idea that the Historical Commission might encourage the new owners of the abutting restaurant property to consider adding amenities that enhance access to the bridge/park area. Mr. Stephens further stated that the Town of Grafton owns the property since the state transferred ownership approximately five years ago. Ann Morgan stated that the commission should have a field trip to gain first-hand knowledge of the property’s condition after the cleanup. Ruth Anderson stated that a visit from Steve, Ray, and Rich of the Fireman’s Association would update the commission on the associations current plans.

## 2. New Business

A. Fiscal 2016 Project Planning – Ann Morgan stated that there is a need to organize existing historic survey data that is on paper, probably doing it in a large room to prepare for inputting to a master spreadsheet that would then be the input for the historic layer in the town GIS.

John Stephens asked if this would allow for permit application alerts for historic properties. Ann Morgan responded that the GIS layer would at least provide education about the historic inventory, which could indirectly promote historic preservation of historic landscapes. Ann Morgan indicated that January would be a good month to organize the data. John Stephens noted that “Then and Now” photo pairs could increase awareness of town history and promote preservation.

Mr. Stephens then asked if the GIS layer data would feed into the next town master plan. Ann Morgan indicated that she can pull up the old master plans and their assessments as part of a community report card that would have a format such as: Transportation: OK, Facilities: C, Historic: Virtually, and the information will be brought to the January meeting to assess how the 2000 master plan has been implemented from a historic preservation perspective.

B. Correspondence – None.

C. Request for Comments – None.

- D. Other items – Ruth Anderson stated that Barbara Hazzard’s property has mounds and signs of past settlements that are potentially pre-Columbian and may be similar to other local features such as the Upton Stone Chamber and the Knight of Wexford near Kimball Farm. She further stated that Byron Dix Mavor of NEARA with records in Concord, NH, may have related information.

**3. Executive Session**

None held.

**4. Schedule Next Meeting**

Ruth Anderson indicated the next meeting would be January 14, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

**5. Adjournment**

Ann Morgan moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Robert Aberg. Motion carried 7-0. Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

List of Documents Used:

- “The Great Trail”, by Mrs. C. M. Warren of Grafton, MA, in the archives of the Grafton Historical Society

Minutes approved on: January 14, 2016

Submitted by Robert Aberg, Clerk, Grafton Historical Commission

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

To All Who Are Interested in Grafton History:-

The Hooker Trail, also known as the Connecticut Trail, entered Grafton either in Merriam District where the D.A.R. have placed a marker or possibly a little farther to the East between Goddard and Stowe Farms - crossed the Great Meadows going up Keith Hill by Brown Road (today) by Prescott Farm (Pease today) and straight down to Farnumville (today) through Farm of Sherman (about opposite Bertha Johnson's of Today) and forded the Elackstone River where Fisher Dam is located today, through Fisherville (of today) and up the steep hill into Sutton.

→ The marker on Providence Road below Bruce Hollow is wrong - it should be on Providence Road in Farnumville. The State men sent here to place marker did not have the necessary information. Mr. Prescott was planning to have it changed but that was one thing he did not have time to do.

That Trail was very important in its day.

Mrs. C. M. Warren