

May 18, 2017

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Historic District Commission and the Historical Commission, Petersham Memorial Library, 23 Common St.

Call to order: 7:00 PM, Chairperson Nancy Allen

Commission members present: Nancy Allen, Claudette Bishop, Bob Clark, Jeremy Gabrenas, Chris Mandel, Melissa Martinez, Lynn Shaw

Commission members absent: None

Others present: Larry Robinson, resident

Recorder: Claudette Bishop

Agenda Items

Review/approval minutes of prior meetings:

- Review of April 20, 2017 meeting minutes. Approved as read.
Moved: Lynn; Seconded: Chris; Approved: unanimous

Project applications: None

Business permits: None

Petersham Common Flagpole:

Larry Robinson, resident and representing the American Legion, attended to discuss the possibility of 24-hour lighting of the flag on the Common, and installation of a plaque beneath the flagpole to honor Bill Berry, who has been raising and lowering the flag daily (during good weather months) for many years. Issues discussed included expense required to replace the flag if it were flown all the time, which 24-hr. lighting would allow, and concerns were raised about increased nighttime light pollution. There was also discussion of possible alternate solutions, such as having a “team” of volunteers to raise/lower flag, which could be done year round. HDC members felt that 24-hour lighting would need to be approved by the Selectboard and would require a public hearing. Installation of a plaque would also require Selectboard approval and likely require a public hearing. Other options discussed included mounting the dedication plaque on the flagpole.

Correspondence:

Worcester *Telegram & Gazette* article about UMASS professor Eric Johnson at an archaeological dig site in North Brookfield.

Programs and Initiatives:

Upcoming hike to Rum Rock with Larry Buell. Bob Clark will contact Brittany Laganna about a possible fall program on endangered species in the Swift River.

Next Meeting Scheduled: June 15, 2017

Adjourned: 8:15 PM

Moved: Claudette; Seconded: Nancy; Approved: unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
Claudette Bishop, Clerk

Approved by: *Approved at monthly HDC meeting of August 2017*