

Wakefield Historical Commission Meeting  
February 26, 2020  
Americal Civic Center

Present: Nancy Bertrand, Gene Moulton, Fran Harrington. Dan Benjamin and Juliane Gerace were absent due to illness.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

### **Issues**

Two properties wanting plaques. 41 Sweetser Street (1850), 8 Madison Avenue (1900). Gene will take photographs. The owner of 265 Salem Street has contacted Nancy regarding the history of her home. Nancy has researched the property using old histories and maps and believes that it might be an early nineteenth century home. When the research is done, she will share it with the Commission and with the homeowner, who will probably want to order a plaque. *\*I had given this address without referring to my notes, and called it 325 instead of 265 at the meeting.*

**Demolition bylaw.** The amendment to the Bylaw has posted online at the town's 'e-code' website, but is shown as a separate document noting numerous wording changes, as opposed to an integrated bylaw. Nancy will make the changes to the Bylaw as shown on our website,

Growing our list? Fran believes 23 Eaton Street might have been knocked down. Gene will drive by. Fran has looked at the areas around Salem Street and just east of Main Street and pinpointed a few homes that might be good additions to the list. Nancy will come up with a draft letter to homeowners.

**Changes to the Americal.** Chris Pierce, the head of buildings for the town, has contacted us to let us know that the balcony woodwork for the Americal will need to be replaced by an exact wooden reproduction. The town would also like to make some minor reproduction/changes to the supports for the balcony inside the Drill Hall. The town will pay for all of the work. The Commission is in favor of this work being done.

**Wakefield's Women** exhibit at the Wakefield History Museum beginning in March.

Invitation to volunteer reception hosted by the town of Wakefield, March 9th at 6:00 p.m.  
Invitation was made by the Town Council.

Many **oral histories interviews** were performed on older citizens from the 1980s to the 2000s. These interviews are on VHS tape. They should be digitized. Nancy has researched costs with the work being done by WCAT.

***Voted: Up to \$500 for digitizing the tapes. \$100 for an external hard drive. (Nancy will purchase this and be reimbursed. Voted unanimously.***

**Preservation restriction** on Gene's property. Gene is concerned that after his demise his property will be subdivided. Gene would like his house and lot preserved. Nancy has contacted Town Counsel Tom Mullen on the subject. He had said that Gene's attorney should contact

him. Gene will call his attorney. The preservation restriction would likely have to go through the Town Meeting for approval.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.