

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Annual meeting. July 31, 2020, Center Hall, held outside because of COVID 19 concerns

Present: Members Stephanie Roper, Jessie Salisbury, Robert Howe, and Selectman Mark Chamberlain, also Bob Rogers, Louis Rota and Mary Lemire

Stephanie opened the meeting at 7 p.m.

Mary Lemire invited the Commission to visit the Center Church. Following a short tour, Mrs. Lemire said the United Church has received an offer for the building which they were considering, with further discussion set for October. The building, built in 1837, is assessed at \$349,800. She said it would be an opportunity for the town to own the building. If sold, it would become a private property. It is one-half of the United Church.

She also said the former Congregational Church's 1800s silver communion set had been found and would be displayed at the library and offered to the Historical Society.

Mrs. Lemire did not attend the following meeting of Commission

Sale of the building was discussed. Stephanie will research the deed and any legalities involved in a sale and arrange a meeting with the Select Board. Jessie will contact the UCC, (United Church of Christ) since the building was originally Congregational and they might have an interest.

Leo Trudeau will be asked to inspect the building and for his comments.

The minutes of June 21, 2019 were approved on as motion by Stephanie, seconded by Mark.

This year's Community Day has been cancelled because of the virus. No further word was received concerning horseshoe pits near the former town barn. There was no opposition to having temporary pits, but a plan is needed from those who wished to install them. It was agreed that "more advance planning" should be done for next year and more activities added for families and children.

Mark said discussion of a fire department substation is “on hold.” More planning is needed, and test pits may be dug. No action is expected prior to Town Meeting.

Bob Howe has been sworn in as a full member, replacing Clayton Brown. Louis Rota, owner of the former Joslin property, agreed to become the Center Village member of the Commission, as well as an alternate on the Heritage Commission. The Selectmen will be informed.

The town hall chairs (the wooden ones from the 1890s) were located back stage. Mark said some repairs need to be made to the hall – water damage near the well and a hole has been found in the foundation.

Replacing the ante room steps, clearing out the anteroom and the rooms on either side of the stage is still on the agenda. A new clean-up date will be set when the weather is cooler. Any needed repairs and painting the rooms will be discussed at that time.

Bob and Jennifer Howe are the caretakers of the gardens as well as the Pound. Bob will cut brush around the Pound. They cleared the garden around the flagpole prior to Memorial Day.

Mark said the repairs to the old town barn were completed “on time and on budget.” All of the moldy materials were removed from the inside. Bob said he had observed a problem with the foundation which will be checked.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50.

Clerk

