

Hadley Historical Commission Minutes for March 28, 2017 Compiled by Jeffrey Mish

Members Present: Jeffrey Mish, Ginger Goldsbury, Kate Kentfield, Carolyn Holstein, Marjorie Pratt Townsend

Members Absent: Tom McGee, Margaret Freeman

Guests: Building Committee Member, Dan Regish, Library Director, Patrick Borezo, library trustees: Joanne Konieczny (Chair), Alison Donta-Venman, Caryn Perley, David Moskin, and Mark Sullivan (OPM).

Meeting came to order at 7:00 on a motion from Kentfield, Goldsbury seconded.

The January 24, 2017 minutes were approved; the November and February 28 minutes could not be approved due to an absence of members who were present at each respective meeting.

Hooker School

Patrick Borezo and the library trustees showed up to find common ground and work with the Historical Commission in regard to the preservation of Hooker School, which will most likely be torn down to build a new library. The meeting was also prompted by a letter, which Borezo, the Commission, and several other town entities, received from the Massachusetts Historical Commission in response to routine procedures (filing a Project Notification Form) the library undertook when applying for a grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

The letter indicates that “Hooker Elementary School at 46 Middle Street (HAD.79) is listed in the State and National Registers of Historic Places as a contributing element of the Hadley Center Historic District (HAD.A/HAD.T),” and states that the Massachusetts Historical Commission seeks “to explore alternatives that would eliminate, minimize, or mitigate the adverse effect of the proposed demolition.”

Joanne Konieczny told the Commission that the library will learn of its rank in reference to obtaining the grant in July 2017, which will determine whether or not they receive funding. Konieczny added that if the grant is awarded, January 2019 is earliest date that any action toward the demolition of Hooker School would be taken.

David Moskin suggested that preservation funding could come from the Community Foundation, Massachusetts Historical Commission, and the town of Hadley itself. Dan Regish added that the Commission should start with town resources, such as CPA money, to chronicle and research the history of Hooker School.

Ginger Goldsbury suggested that the Commission make an outline of what is needed to preserve Hooker School and then find out the cost.

The Trustees stated that they would like to have a dialogue with the Massachusetts Historical Commission regarding the matter, to which Regish suggested that the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission could be a conduit between the town and state for guidance.

Kate Kentfield suggested the creation of a Hooker School Task Force, which could focus on preservation costs and methods. The trustees agreed. Marjorie Pratt Townsend volunteered to be the Commission delegate to the Task Force.

Kentfield also stated that funding opportunities should be discussed before preservation projects.

Miscellaneous

Regish said that the mission statement of the Building Committee is to “preserve one or more” buildings in town.

Goldsbury will be touring Russell School with Gary Berg and Marlo Warner later this week. She will also be attending a budget meeting, where she will ask to have funds designated for Record Cleaning moved to Special Projects.

Kentfield suggested that the Commission may also want to consider documenting North Hadley Hall in the same way that Hooker School might be documented.

The Commission will hold a special meeting on April 11, to create a list of priorities before moving forward.

Kentfield made a motion to adjourn at 8:50, Goldsbury seconded.