



Historical Commission

Town of Chilmark

MEETING NOTES - APPROVED

March 21, 2022 (via ZOOM)

Present for the Historical Commission and attending the Zoom meeting were Jane Slater - Chair, James (Jim) Malkin, Barbara Armstrong, John Flender and Alison Kisselgof - Administrator. Jeffrey Dubard also attended. Steve McGhee was not in attendance.

The meeting came to order at 3:08 PM.

NORTH ROAD STONE WALL RESTORATION CONTINUED DISCUSSION: Jane asked the members if anyone was able to look at the wall on North Road which resident David Lundgren had requested be restored – John and Barbara both indicated they went over to view. Barbara felt the wall could use some repair. She recounted a conversation with her brother Jimmy Morgan in which he mentioned that the Middle Road restorations he previously did were overgrown with vines again. Barbara was concerned that once restoration has been done that the property owners are not keeping the walls clear of vegetation. She said that the Commission had been focused on stone walls on road leading into town and wondered if all these walls had been repaired since North Road is not included.

Jane offered that the stone walls included in the stone wall restoration project were repaired and no further requests had been received. She said that the Commission could choose to end the project at this point. Jane went on to say that there were no allowances made for repair beyond initial work but that on most town and state roads maintenance does cut back brush along the walls which more or less keeps them clear. To her knowledge, the Commission has never made a request for owners to keep the stone walls clear once they've been restored.

Barbara mentioned that the stone wall beyond this property on North Road had been cleared of vegetation and it made a significant difference to its appearance. She said that if the Lundgren's wall could be cleared, it would look a lot better.

John offered that the measurement of the stone wall from stake to stake was about 760 feet. Alison said that a measurement using the GIS map was closer to 830 feet. John felt the stone wall does need restoration. He commented that the shrubbery behind the wall is quite dense in places.

Jim asked how close the stone wall in question was to town center. Jane said that the wall was located less than a mile to the Crossroads and that another restoration was done in the area.

John mentioned that the Commission hasn't done any wall repair as extensive as this project and wondered if the owner would share the costs. Jane suggested that the history of the stone wall repair project should be consulted to see if any projects were this large.

Jim would like to get an estimate on the repair before moving forward. He suggested the owner be contacted to explain the scale is beyond any other projects done and raise the possibility of sharing the cost. The rest of the

Commission agreed to this. It was requested that Alison get a quote from Jim Morgan and look at previous projects to see how they compare.

DONATED 1720 PAMPHLET TO THE CHILMARK HISTORICAL COLLECTION: A religious pamphlet from 1720 was donated to the town. A motion was made to accept the donation into the town's collection and write a thank you note to the donor. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.
Vote = Slater - aye, Malkin - aye, Flender – aye, Armstrong - aye.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: A motion was made to accept the 1/24/22 minutes as written. The motion was seconded and passed.
Vote = Slater - aye, Malkin - aye, Flender – aye, Armstrong - aye.

OTHER TOPICS: There was a brief discussion about mid-century modern houses in Chilmark, brought up by Jeffrey Dubard. Jane said that there are a number of people interested in this style of house and there are a number of houses in this style in town but offered that someone would need to submit more information on these houses to the Historical Commission for review.

Alison mentioned that the Cemetery Commission was cleaning out file cabinets and found some materials belonging to the Historical Commission. The items were not moved. Alison suggested that she and Jane could organize the items together at a later date.

Alison said that the item on the agenda regarding a renovation at 20 Menemsha Gate did not need to be discussed by the Historical Commission according to Building Commissioner Lenny Jason.

DOCUMENTS:

1/24/22 Draft Minutes
1720 Pamphlet

NEXT POSSIBLE MEETING: TBD

With no further business to conduct the meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Alison Kisselgof, board administrator.