

TOWN OF SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING OF APRIL 27, 2017

Present: H. Dennis Sears, Chair; Michael King, Catherine Miller, Kathy Orlando, Jeffrey Waingrow

Absent: Gay Tucker

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am. The minutes of the meeting of March 31, 2017 were approved as presented. (4-0-0).the

Property at 1391 Home Road, Sheffield: The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission has requested a review of the property to determine if there is any historic value. Members of the Commission had viewed the property in advance of the meeting.

On a motion duly made and seconded (King/Waingrow), it was voted that BRPC could continue with its review as the property does not constitute an historic resource, requiring protection. (5-0-0)

Trustees of Reservation (Cooper Hill Stone Wall): After viewing the stone wall on Cooper Hill and talking with several Commission members, the Trustees have decided against removing the wall at this time. Email from Julie Richburg, Regional Ecologist, attached.

The Chair suggested that the Commission invite Robert Thorson, a well-known authority on stone walls to visit the site and weigh with his thoughts as the wall is unusual in many respects. Dennis will pursue.

Michael King opined that the length, the curvature, the size of many of the stones, the fact that it was built with a purpose, that there are no other known walls of a similar nature in the area suggest that the wall has some historical context of which the Commission and others are unaware.

Process for Other Requests Similar to BRPC: it was the consensus of the Commission that the process followed to date be continued.

Budget: A brief discussion of the budget and how it is being used or not used ensued. It was determined that the subject would be explored at a later meeting. Similarly, as Michael King noted, the Commission should do some forward looking thinking and take some action. That too will be the subject of the next meeting for which members are asked to identify topics for discussion.

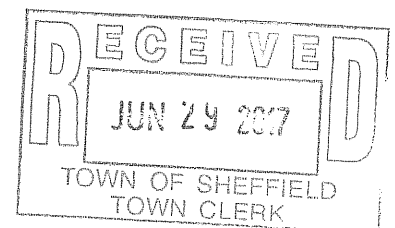
The Chair agreed to contact the Town Administrator about the availability of a lockable four drawer file cabinet and space in which to locate said file cabinet.

Next Meeting: May 16 at 7:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine B. Miller, Clerk



Dennis Sears

From: H Dennis Sears <hdennissears@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 21, 2017 11:46 AM
To: 'Catherine B. Miller'; 'Gay Tucker'; 'H. Dennis Sears'; 'Jeffrey Waingrow'; 'Michael King'; Wildkato@aol.com
Subject: FW: Stone wall

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: TO DO

Here's the note from TOR on the Wall. I think Michael did a great education/sales job on this! Dennis

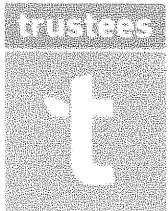
From: Julie Richburg [mailto:jrichburg@thetrustees.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 4:23 PM
To: 'H Dennis Sears' <hdennissears@gmail.com>; 'Michael King' <reevesrn@bcn.net>; 'Kathy' <wildkato@aol.com>
Cc: Catherine Miller <cbmiller1941@gmail.com>; jlw189@msn.com
Subject: RE: Stone wall

Hello Dennis and all,

Thank you very much for visiting our wall on Cooper Hill Road last week and taking the time to address my request. After learning about the wall through your eyes, as well as following up with some others, I have decided that we will not pursue removing the wall at this time. Thank you very much for your input and I hope our paths cross again in the future.

All the best,

Julie



Julie Richburg, Ph.D.
Regional Ecologist

Trustees | West Region | Serving the Berkshires, Pioneer Valley and Central MA
100 Main Street, Suite 100 | Florence, MA 01062
jrichburg@thetrustees.org | 413.532.1631 x3112 (phone) | 413.250.1983 (cell)

