

**Webster Historical Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes, February 18, 2020**

The Historical Commission held a meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 in the Local History Meeting Room, Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, 2 Lake Street, Webster, MA.

Present: Ted Avlas, Curtis Cleaves, Elaine Davies

Absent: Ron Heroux

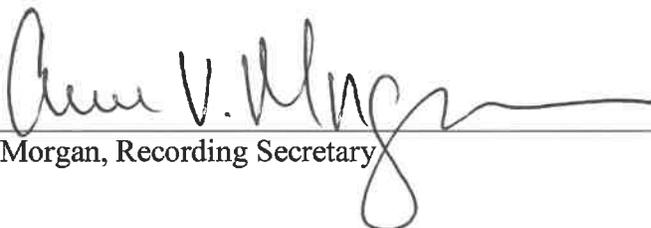
Also Present: Ann Morgan - Director of Planning & Economic Development

1. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m.
2. Draft Meeting Minutes – November 20, 2019. The Commission reviewed the draft meeting minutes of November 20, 2019. No edits were made. Motion to approve the minutes as drafted made by Mr. Cleaves, seconded by Mr. Heroux. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0. Previous minutes were accepted.
3. Old Business
  - a. Website Update: Ann distributed several handouts pertaining to record keeping, conflict of interest laws, the town's website, and open meeting laws. She commented on the flexibility of the website, how the Historical Commission differs from the Historical Society, and noted that cash and/or materials are acceptable without limit. The website will include a "Notify Me" option for informing the Commission of historical concerns. There is also a nice dynamic historical picture display! Ron shared an old Commission scrapbook from the Historical Society museum.
  - b. Additional Members: Ted initiated a discussion pertaining to having 5 vs 7 members. Remote participation, e.g. by Skype, was discussed and would need formal adoption by the Select Board. It was generally agreed to initially try and get 5 members with 7 an ultimate goal.
4. New Business
  - a. Mission Statement: Ann provided samples of other town mission statements for consideration. Ron noted that WHC probably already had such statement and we should check into that. [the 1978 annual report includes such "purpose" as follows: "The purpose of the local Historical Commission is to identify and record the historic assets of the community and to develop and implement a program for their preservation."]
5. Staff Report / Update
  - a. General: Ann noted that regardless of prior Commission appointment dates that current terms would run for 3 years from December 2019.
  - b. Doug commented on progress of the Slater Museum project.
  - c. Ann mentioned a potential historical plaque program; some thought such plaques could instill a sense of pride in historical properties and possibly motivate owners to improve their upkeep. (potential future project).

- d. Tercentenary Marker: Project possibility: Ann provided pictures of a Massachusetts Tercentenary sign on Thompson Rd. regarding the Praying Indians at Chaubunagungamaug. The sign needs to be repaired and potentially relocated. Bay Path is a potential candidate for repairing it. Larry Spotted Crow Mann is a potential consultant regarding relocation.
- e. Grants and Tour – Town Hall: Potential grants regarding Town Hall restoration (built 1928) were discussed. The Town was recently awarded a grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission to complete a full Town Hall assessment. This assessment will be used in the future to apply for grants to complete work items. In the future, the Commission will be asked to review and comment on grant applications. Carol Cyr (Redevelopment Authority) had been acting on behalf of the Commission prior to its reactivation.
- f. Old Commission minutes (stored at the Historical Society museum) were provided to Ann for copying and storing for future reference.
- g. Next Meeting: April 28, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

Motion to adjourn the meeting to be followed by a tour of Town Hall made by Mr. Heroux, seconded by Mr. Cleaves. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0. The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Ann Morgan, Recording Secretary