

**Dracut Historical Commission Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 20, 2016**

**Present:** Dave Paquin, Chairman

Bob Kohanski, Asst. Chairman

Harvey Gagnon

Louise Tremblay

Marc Gosselin

Absent - Linda Kawa

Also in attendance was Betsy Ware, Director of Community Development (DCD)

*D Paquin*  
*Robert W Kohanski*

*Harvey Gagnon*

*Louise Tremblay*

**Minutes:**

Chairman Paquin called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, at the Historic Building, 1660 Lakeview Ave. The minutes of the December 16, 2015, passed on a motion by of Ms. Tremblay, seconded by Mr. Kochanski, Motion passed.

**Community Input**

None

**Beaver Brook Farm**

Ms. Ware explained to the board that Brian Pfeiffer, was hired by the BBFC. He is coming with a crew of people Friday morning. Ms. Ware explained that accompanying Brian will be three apprentices, a preservation carpenter, and a specialist in masonry work, because of the amount of concrete, stone and terracotta in the complex. Ms. Ware explained that the five of them, plus, herself will be walking through all the buildings and grounds.

The report should be done within two to three weeks.

Mr. Paquin asked Betsy to explain the email she had sent inquiring about Harmony Hall.

Ms. Ware stated she had been asked to go back through all the projects that involved CPC funds. Ms. Ware explained that roughly \$600,000 of Historic Preservation funding went into Harmony Hall once it was moved. However it should of had had a restriction on it.

Ms. Ware explained that she had sent Mass Historical a couple of pictures of the building and explained the whole scenario about the building and its move. Ms. Ware explained that the building was saved, but when it was put in its final resting place, there were some changes to it.

Mass Historical basically stated because vinyl siding was used and a couple of other things were done, along with the way it is now located, particularly the foundation and how it relates to the other building, it basically doesn't follow the secretary's interior standards for rehabbing a building. Any preservation restriction has to be approved by them. Ms. Ware explained they basically stated they would not approve any restriction based on the way this building was finally handled. Ms. Ware stated we should just use this as a teachable movement and in dealings with property's that deal with preservation restrictions like Beaver Brook Farm, we have to be more mindful.

Ms. Ware received an email that stated the Town has been invited to apply for the full grant application, for survey funds, in the amount of Fifteen-Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00), which would be matched with local funds. (Staff, CPA and other funds). Ms. Ware stated that there were 37 applicants and we were one of 21 to be asked to go to the next phase.

The final grant application is due in February. Ms. Ware stated they should hear back in May or June if we are granted the funds.

That amount of Thirty-Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) would generate about 120-150 survey forms, or resource forms. Ms. Ware explained that if you develop a game plan and show you are serious, then, Mass Historic Commission will basically fund you for several years running.

### **Old Business**

Chairperson Dave Paquin informed the committee that the budget was submitted.

### **New Business**

Chairperson Dave Paquin explained that the Measure of Activity for the usage of Harmony Hall for the year was 245. Harvey Gagnon wanted to note that the revenue stayed about the same as last year.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer's Report was read along with the following bills which were paid by the Treasurer:

January

Gas: \$130.39

Electric: \$320.23

ASAP: \$387.00 for the yearly alarm service