

Meeting at the Josiah Smith Tavern

Members Present: A. Fobes (AF), A. Primer (AP), H. Stone (HS), A. Aydelott (AA), P. Halpern (PH)

Others Present: Pam Fox (PF) – President of Weston Historical Society (WHS), Gary Jarobski (GJ) – Weston Director of Facilities, Adrienne Giske (AG) – President of Friends of JST

PH called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Agenda Item: Review status of town-owned items stored in the Josiah Smith Tavern. Make decisions about whether to de-accession objects, and if so, by what manner?

1. Public Comments: None.

2. Recap of BoS meeting: PH and PF reported that they, along with Steve Wagner, met with the Board of Selectmen on 5/14. Also attending were AA and AG. The Selectmen voted to give the Historical Commission authority to act on behalf of the town in disposing of all Town-owned property at the JST, consistent with all applicable laws, including to offer it for sale, and including to make donations of objects to or for the benefit the WHS, the Golden Ball Tavern, or other non-profit historical groups. There may be things that are determined best saved for future use by the town, and these will need to be stored elsewhere. There should be an accounting of items that are de-accessioned. All this will be done in consultation with the Town Manager.

3. Summary of objects: The HC's consultant catalogued 111 Town-owned objects. Of these, WHS would like 32 objects. Golden Ball Tavern would like 3. WHS would also like a minimum of 8 other objects not included on the list.

4. Votes:

- a. Vote to donate 40 + objects as requested to WHS. AP motioned; HS seconded, All in favor.
- b. Vote to donate 3 objects as requested to Golden Ball Tavern. HS motioned; AP seconded. All in favor.
- c. Vote to ask Dr. Davies (WHS volunteer) to help investigate whether the non-profit recipients identified by our consultant might be interested in certain objects. For example, will the Taunton Historical Society or the Old Colony History Museum want the "Miniature Taunton blanket chest from c.1727?" Will the Needham History Center & Museum want the "Tin Parchment Case with a Document Inside" because it was used by a Needham townsman over 150 years ago? AA motioned; AF seconded. All in favor.

5. Other actions/discussion:

- a. HS to ask his contact at the North Bennett St School whether the school may be interested in taking the historic pianos and organ.
- b. GJ noted that there are 3 Historical Commission file cabinets and 3 cardboard boxes filled with good information. These are to be brought to the basement of Town Hall per John Field's instructions.
- c. GJ observed the items that will need to be stored, at least temporarily, in order to completely vacate the JST by the end of May. He discussed how he would arrange staff help for the move.
- d. Possible temporary storage of these objects could be in the Brooks School Apartment Building, where Weston Media Center has been located. GJ and the Town Manager to discuss this with the Elderly Housing Committee.
- e. On 5/17, AF & AP will sort the left-over objects to help figure out which, if any, may be worthwhile to save for future town use, for example, as decoration or otherwise. They will note which items should be offered to Skinner's Auction House or for auction or sale elsewhere.
- f. PF has separated books from the Town's collection that she would like donated to the WHS.
- g. Madeline Mullen has separated books from the Town's collection that she would like donated to the Local History Room in the Public Library.
- h. On 5/18, HS & PH will catalogue the book collection. It was decided that some Weston-oriented books should go into the Town Hall Archive.

Calendar

Next meetings: May 20, June 17.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Phyllis Halpern