

Minutes
of the
Watertown Historical Commission
Thursday, November 13, 2008
Council Chambers
7:00pm

Historical Commission Members Present: Russo, Berg, Jones, Roach

Staff Present: Collins

Public Present: See attached Sign-In Form

Russo chaired. The meeting opened at 7:00p.m.

1. October Minutes – Adopted.

2. Boston Post Cane

Russo reported that there was a discussion about the cane in the Watertown Blog. He added that he was contacted by Christine Laubenstein, the TAB reporter, about an article about the cane. She informed him that the price for the cane has risen from \$800 to \$1600. Russo's research revealed that the cane went to the oldest man in Watertown who was an employee of the Boston Post. Russo questioned whether the cane inscribed "to be transmitted" would allow for the cane to be in private possession for sale. He supported reviving the custom of identifying the oldest resident with a

ceremonial presentation cane and a certificate that the cane must be remitted back to the Town for future presentations. Possible name for such a cane was the “New Boston Post Cane.” A suggestion was made to approach the TAB for a possible sponsorship of a “Watertown TAB Cane.” The HC will work and talk to the Council on Aging on a possible joint venture.

Joyce Kelly, HSW, suggested conducting an oral history along with the presentation of the cane. Another suggestion was to include the “Cane Ceremony” along with the annual Watertown Preservation Awards program.

Russo volunteered to work further on this item. He will contact John Flynn about available Town census information. During Nov./Dec., he’ll look into developing particulars for a possible cane ceremony.

3. MHC Survey and Planning Grant

Russo reported that MHC has available a Survey and Planning Grant, a letter of intent is due December 15, 2008.

Collins reported that she contacted Jonathan K. Patton at MHC about his determination that the demolition of 130 Galen Street was “unlikely to affect significant historic or archaeological resources.” According to Patton, the determination was based on the State’s records for the Town of Watertown. Collins said that this oversight shows a need to update Watertown’s 1982 Inventory of Historic Properties. Russo informed that he had over 100 Watertown properties already surveyed in Form Bs. He noted that area research refinement would be necessary for these properties to be included in the inventory. Russo requested that Collins look into the grant and match requirements to see if the grant could be use for this purpose.

4. Barn Inventory

Russo informed that Vermont has an inventory for its barns. Russo wants to do a similar inventory of Watertown's barns, carriage houses, stables and other outbuildings of note to document. Russo suggested that Watertown be divided up into areas to identify the "outbuildings." Russo will bring maps for the next meeting and assign areas to members.

5. **Before / Now Photos** in the TAB continues. Russo sent examples for the program. Examples of recent demolitions and their present replacements were suggested for submission. Collins informed that file photos of the demolished buildings are available.

6. **Partnership of the Historic Bostons** Roach informed that HSW has been invited to be included in the partnership. There are monthly meetings at the British Consulate in Cambridge. The next meeting is December 5, 2008.

7. **2009 HC Meetings**

Vote: Berg moved to adopt the presented schedule the 2009 HC Meetings. Roach seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously **approved**.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.