

**Historical Commission Minutes
June 1, 2023**

Present: Giampaolo DiGregorio, Chair; Annette Shaw, Louis Andrews, Robin O'Brien, Jennifer Davis, Clerk
Visitors: Nancy Breef-Pilz

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1. Meeting called to order 4:30 p.m.

2. Historical House Plaque Discussion

Nancy Breef-Pilz, 154 Church Street, said her house and several others in her neighborhood were built prior to 1915 and she would like to research different styles of historical plaques. She said she has spoken with Kevin McNatt of the Historical Society about doing research on the houses.

Ms. Breef-Pilz and the commission discussed what kind of information should be included on plaques. Mr. DiGregorio said the houses may someday become the foundation for a historic district, and suggested tying the historical houses into Mansfield's 250th celebration. Mr. Andrews said the Historical Society plans to prepare historic markers for significant places in town, similar to the new sign at Fulton's Pond.

Mr. O'Brien said the Town of Foxborough's historic district gives a sense of the social history of the town, not just the leaders.

Motion: To support and provide assistance to the historical house plaque program (Andrews-Shaw) All in favor. PASSES

Mr. Andrews said the Natural Resources Trust has applied for a grant to have the films from Mansfield's 1925 celebration digitized and to redo the 1976 Bicentennial celebration films.

Mr. Andrews said the Downtown Committee will be meeting to discuss Harry Chase Place, and he and Andy Todesco have designed some displays to highlight the history of the Old Colony Railroad, as well as some photographs and biographical information about Mr. Chase. Mr. O'Brien said he would like to be able to tell the broadest possible story and take advantage of opportunities to spotlight all of Mansfield's communities.

3. Discussion of Boston Post Cane

The commission discussed the Boston Post Cane Award program.

Motion: To offer the Boston Post Cane to Mrs. Verna Buote (Andrews-O'Brien) All in favor. PASSES

4. Fisher-Richardson House Update

Mr. Andrews said volunteers will be need to open the house for the summer.

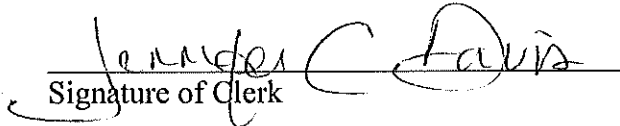
The members discussed working on recruiting new members to the Historical Commission.

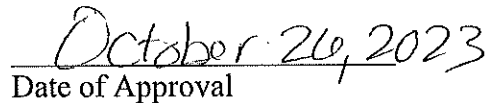
Mr. Andrews said a group of residents trying to get funding to erect a fence around the Ephriam Leonard Cemetery, which contains Leonard family graves, as well as the graves of several enslaved people. Mr. O'Brien said the group has received seed money from the Non-Profit Gift Fund. Mr. Andrews suggested using the funds for supplies and recruiting volunteers to do the work. Mrs. Shaw said the additional signage will cost around \$1,000.

Mr. O'Brien said there will be a table at the Juneteenth celebration with information about enslaved people in the area.

5. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn at 5:30 p.m. (Andrews-Davis) All in favor. PASSES


Signature of Clerk


Date of Approval