

EGREMONT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

January 4th, 2020 – 10:00 am

Attending: Rebecca Turner, Bill Wood, Abigail Rogers-McKee, Barbara Kalish

Absent: Elliott Snyder, Stephen Piersanti

- **Meeting Minutes:** December meeting minutes approved.
- **Library Use of Meeting Room:** Rebecca sent an official letter to the trustees and spoke with Lesliann about the use of the second-floor meeting room. In the next months, the Commission will work to re-locate and secure items in the room.
- **Oral History:** Barbara has begun interviews for the history project. Rebecca reviewed where past interview recordings have been stored on tape/vhs and as digital files on the computer. There was discussion about what to do with the files and it was suggested that in addition to having the recorded files, they could also be transcribed. A possible format could be a bound book which could be part of the Town's 250th celebration in 2025.
- **Preparedness Plan:** The discussion for having a preparedness plan was re-visited. The commission would like to reach out to the Library Trustees again to see what is currently in place and see what next steps could be put in place to better protect some of the more valuable items in the archives.
 - As part of this, the commission will be purchasing a small fire safe to house the proprietors book and a couple of other items in the interim.
- **Demolition Delay By-law:** Rebecca will scan the edited version of the by-law prepared by Bill and email out to the commission members for review.
- **Website & Email:** The town has set up an official email for the commission. It was noted that the current contact information on the website is the Library phone number and since members are not regularly in the archives, this wasn't effective and should be changed to the email only.
- **Commission Hours:** Currently the archives are officially open on the first Saturday of the month from 10-12 which is also our scheduled meeting time. Saturdays are getting more difficult to schedule around for members and many would prefer a weekday meeting time. It was thought that it would be better to have the archive open by appointment only in the future so that visitors could get more focused attention depending on what they were researching.

Note: Saturday February 1st will be an informal gathering to review the archive organization setup and layout. The archives will be open to the public, but this will not be an official meeting.

Next Proposed Meeting: Wednesday, February 5th @ 4:00

Submitted by Rebecca Turner, Chair & Secretary