

EGREMONT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

February 5th, 2020 – 4:00 pm

Attending: Rebecca Turner, Bill Wood, Abigail Rogers-McKee, Barbara Kalish, Stephen Piersanti, Elliott Snyder, Ellen Maggio

- **Meeting Minutes:** January Meeting minutes were approved
- **New Members:** The commission welcomed its newly appointed member Ellen Maggio.
- **Commission Hours & Meeting time:** The posted meeting time for the commission will be moved to a weekday. All members agreed that the archives would function better by appointment only for research or general visits. The public could contact us via our website and email. The commission will also reach out to Lesliann to see if the library voicemail message could be updated to direct callers for the archives to our website. Rebecca will contact Mary to have the town website updated with this new timing. Stephen will coordinate with Caroline to have the commission website updated with our email address and hours. A request form could also be added to the website for specific requests.
- **Organizing the Collections:** On Saturday the 1st some of the commission met to begin re-organizing the collection with the goal to remove open collection items from the workroom. It was decided to remove the law books from our collection to make more room for Egremont specific items. Rebecca reached out to the town to see if they wanted any of the books back and was told no. Rebecca will also contact James Parish to see if his family would also like the books as some were gifted to the town by his family.
 - **Master Plan:** To better organize the collection, Barbara suggested a master plan be made for the archive with a floor plan of the space and clear inventory list. A mission statement for what the commission would like to accept / keep for the collection should be written.
 - **Organizing Session:** A working session is scheduled for Tuesday the 18th at 2pm to continue this project and discussion.
- **Oral History:** Barbara collected the existing VHS taped interviews and will be converting them to digital files. In addition to the formal interviews, Barbara would also like to begin collection shorter stories from Egremont residents either by letter or email. Ellen volunteered to help with this project.
- **Demolition Delay By-law:** Bill presented another copy of the demolition delay by-law with some additional edits. The deadline to have this included at the next town meeting is March 13th. Rebecca will scan and distribute to member for review.
- **Complete Streets:** Stephen met with the Complete Streets Committee who are working to submit a grant to the state for funds to improve Sheffield Egremont Road. Their hope is to dovetail with the DOT work on Route 23, specifically with lighting. Lighting is not part of the DOT project as the current lighting is on National Grid owned poles, but it is possible the DOT could place conduit for future lighting installed by the town or National Grid. Stephen will continue to act as a representative of the Historical Commission at the complete Streets meetings.
- **Route 23 Project:** Elliott recommended that the commission present a formal recommendation to the DOT and town on what finish selections, lighting, signage, etc. would be most appropriate for the historic village. Barbara has been working independently with other residents to look at these items. A presentation of their ideas could be presented to the commission so together we can present a cohesive proposal to the town to forward to the DOT.
- **Birthday Party:** Barbara will be meeting with Lucinda Vermeulen and Mary McGurn to have a planning session for this and upcoming parties. The overarching goal is to have a large celebration for our 250th celebration in 2025. The town was officially incorporated on August 23, 1775.

- **April Hill:** Will Conklin, director of Greenagers, reached out to work with the commission to help expand on the history of the property at April Hill. The commission was also invited to furnish and decorate the front parlor in the house with historic items, possibly from the archive, in addition to other sourced items.

Next Proposed Meeting: Wednesday, March 4th @ 4:00
Submitted by Rebecca Turner, Chair & Secretary