

Ipswich Historical Commission March 14, 2022
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attending:

Members: Joe Bourneuf, Linda Grimes, Gordon Harris, Laura Gresh, Rachel Meyer, Jamie Novak, Mariana Ovnich, Christine Sarantopoulos

Staff: Kristen Grubbs

Isaac Ross

Steve Miles was unable to attend

Bill Effner is in the hospital

Historic Plaques

Mill workers strike: Rachel brought IHC up to date and saying the Select Board approved the location. The plaque is in fabrication, Isaac Ross has talked with the DPW regarding the plaque installation.

Ben Staples wrote an original song in honor of Nicolette.

The tentative date for the community to acknowledge the plaque and the event that happened at this site was set for Friday, June 10th with a reception immediately after. Gordon has a slide show. EBSCO parking lot would be ideal gathering space. Isaac agreed to ask EBSCO management for use of the lot.

Chris said she would ask the church's parish council if we could use the church for a reception.

Linda said she would get approval for dedication event from Police Chief Paul Nikas.

Isaac suggested the church clergy say a prayer at the dedication.

The new Lafayette Plaque is situated on North Main Street. Gordon mentioned requesting a donation of \$1000 from the Harold Bowen Trust to the Lafayette Trail organization to help them defray cost of this sign.

Laura made a motion to request \$1000 from the board of the Howard Bowen Fund for Lafayette Trail. Gordon seconded the motion. Linda Grimes voted against and all other members voted in favor.

Joe asked who he should contact to make this request. Joe will request funds from Town Treasurer, Kevin Mertz.

Historic House Signs

We are recruiting a sign maker to make signs on historic homes in town. Joe and Gordon met with a sign maker from Beverly and Gordon posted a request on IHC Facebook page for a local sign maker. Penny Bernad of 186 County Road responded. She uses a photographic process making her signs and would charge home owner \$125 each. Another woman – Lisa – also responded. Her signs would be hand painted. Both sign makers work was found to be good quality. Everyone agreed on using a local sign maker.

Gordon said signs are paid for by the home owner, the date on the sign is confirmed with the IHC and the sign maker confirms the information before making.

Jamie suggested creating an on-line. Gordon agreed to do this.

Approval of January minutes.

Linda moved to approve. Laura seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

New Business

Linda said she was stepping down as vice-chair and will become an alternate member and that she will follow-up with Town Manager.

Having the next meeting on April 11 in person was discussed. Some members preferred to continue Zoom meetings. It was decided to continue meeting by Zoom.

Gordon reminded members he will be giving a talk at the Library on the *Underground Railroad*. Date is Monday, March 21st and time is 6-7 p.m. Meeting is available by Zoom with registration.

Gordon said 2026 is the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Essex National Heritage is organizer for this event. There is now a tab on the town website regarding.

Gordon would like to prepare a presentation of the letters between Joseph and Sarah Hodgkins.

Gordon made a motion to adjourn. Rachel seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Laura Gresh

Minutes approved by the Historical Commission on April 11, 2022.