

Brandon Historic Preservation Commission

Minutes

28 September 2018, 11 AM at the Stephen Douglas House

The meeting was called to order at 11AM by Lance Mead, serving as chair. In attendance: Lance Mead, Richard Baker, Jeff Stewart, Frank Bump. There was a discussion of fulfilling the fifth slot with possible candidates. Jeff will approach Kevin Thornton and Richard will speak with Bill Powers.

Frank and Lance have been working on the inventory of barns and will continue. Jeff will check with Blaine to see if he has the existing file on the barns.

Lance presented the Certificate for Brandon's Certified Local Government which he will take to the town office and ask that it be framed and then hung in the town office.

There was a discussion of the Ordinance establishing the Historic Preservation Commission to confirm that we were fulfilling its conditions and obligations.

In covering buildings of historic significance, Richard pointed out that we should have had some input when it came to the changing status of the Smith Block, but that we are comfortable with the steps that have been taken to restore it to full use.

Jeff spoke of the deteriorating condition of the Methodist Church which was the first project of Clinton Smith, one of the most important Vermont architects of the 19th century. The foundation is rubble stone and the mortar holding the stones in place is in a bad state of deterioration, jeopardizing the entire structure. Preservation Trust of Vermont provided a grant to do a survey but the costs of repair are far beyond the capability of the present congregation. The state historic preservation division has expressed interest but it isn't clear what, if any, help they could provide. The Brandon Historic Committee will stay on top of the situation but no solution is evident.

Richard covered the problems with the roof and ceiling of the town hall. He estimated that between \$200,000 to \$300,000 will be necessary to make repairs and that it is unclear where such funds can be achieved.

The committee will continue to identify other buildings in town where attention needs to be paid and they will come up for discussion in future meetings.

We then spoke of two sites where historic signs would be appropriate – one being the only twin-arch stone bridge in Vermont. It is hoped we can get such a sign before the bridge is finished and before Segment Six is completed in 2019. The other site is the former High Street quarry that at 700 feet was one of the deepest in the area and was in operation until the 1930s. Jeff will speak with Caitlin Corkins about the procedure to get these signs installed.

The date of the next meeting was set for 8 November, 2018 in the Stephen Douglas House at 11 AM.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12 AM.