

Uxbridge Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2019

Members present: Mary Beauchamp, Roy Henry, Faye McCloskey, Michael Potaski.

Guests: Selectperson Susan Franz, Finance Committee Member Patrick Hannon.

Members Absent: Francis Cove, Peter Emerick, David Moriarty.

Meeting called to order at 3:10 PM.

The Minutes for the June 18, 2019 meeting were read by Faye McCloskey. Motion to accept the minutes was made by Michael Potaski, seconded by Roy Henry and followed by a unanimous vote in favor.

There was no July meeting and the August meeting was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum.

New Business:

1. Selectperson Susan Franz is working on a humanities project to further the knowledge of the history of the Underground Railroad and the anti-slavery movements in the Blackstone River Valley. This is of particular significance as 2020 is the 175th Anniversary of Frederick Douglass and the 170th Anniversary of Sojourner Truth, both speaking in Uxbridge. The project, with cooperation from the Uxbridge Historical Commission and the Public Schools, entails a creation of a traveling exhibit detailing the historical connections from 1780-1865 between the region and the Underground Railroad, at various public buildings throughout the anniversary year. If funded, they will be working with Representative McGovern's Office to approach the Blackstone Valley Corridor to host the exhibit at the Blackstone Valley Visitor Center. They will need a grant from the Cultural Commission to build two-sided story boards, including one for the students, stands and prizes for the children. When finished, the property would become the property of the Uxbridge Historical Society.

A motion was made by Michael Potaski to have the Historical Commission support a request by Susan Franz for a grant from the Cultural Commission to build story boards to advertise the African-American Network to Freedom. It was seconded by Roy Henry followed by a unanimous vote in favor.

2. The restoration of the Farnum House was discussed. Mary Beauchamp will contact the Mass. Historical Commission about the 2020 Survey and Planning Grant opportunity in regards to restoration.

Town Planner, Michael Gallerani, will be invited to help us with the grants.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, October 15, 2019.

Motion to adjourn was made by Michael Potaski, seconded by Roy Henry and followed by a unanimous vote in favor.

Meeting ended at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Faye McCloskey
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Mary Beauchamp
John Ten
Michael Effort