

MONSON HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
110 Main Street, Small Meeting Room  
Minutes of August 29, 2017

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m.

In Attendance: Dennis Swierad, Tamara Cabey, Mary Swierad

Absent: None

Guest: Leslie Duthie, chair Community Preservation Committee

1. A motion was made by Tamara and seconded by Dennis to accept the minutes of June 6, 2017 as written. AIF
2. Leslie Duthie spoke on behalf of the Monson CPC about the past historic preservation projects that received CPC monies. She first wanted to know if the past projects were all of historical significance. The Historical Commission agreed that all the past projects were in fact on the local register of historic places. Next, she stated that there needs to be local preservation restrictions placed on any project that will be using CPC monies and that this was something that should have been done from the start. Leslie would like to see the 4 Church's, the Monson Historical Society and the American Legion have preservation restrictions placed upon them because they have received CPC monies over the past years. The Historical Commission reminded her that the Commission always wanted restrictions in place to protect the investment made and that we attempted to work with CPC in 2009 but were met with resistance at the local level.

Leslie stated that she had been in touch with the Community Preservation Coalition and that they suggested the following: any grant receiving monies from \$0. - \$14,999 should have a 5-year restriction placed on the property; any grant receiving monies from \$15,000 - \$30,000 a 10-year restriction. Leslie stated that she has run this idea past Evan Brassard, Town Administrator and that he would approve of this. The town would hold the restrictions and Town Council would be involved in the final wording.

A motion was made by Tamara and seconded by Mary to work with CPC to set up historic preservation restrictions for past and future historic preservation projects. AIF

Another project was brought up by Leslie. She informed the Historical Commission board that she had just replaced an Oak tree in front of Memorial Hall with another, straighter one. She stated that the Re-Plant Monson Tree Committee approved and voted on this and that the Conservation Commission had paid for the tree. The Historical Commission asked why she would plant a tree that will grow to become a hazard to the Cushman fountain and Memorial Hall and would block the view of the front of the building which is a memorial to all the men who fought in the Civil War and all the wars that had followed. We also asked why our letter to the Re-Plant Committee stating that we did not want any trees planted on the Memorial Hall grounds was ignored. Leslie stated that she wanted to see a tree that was as big a visual statement as the building and one that would provide street shade. The Commission again asked her why she would plant such a tree that will grow large enough to become an invasion of space and a hazard. Her comment was that we would all be gone by then and it would be someone else's problem.

3. A motion was made by Tamara and seconded by Dennis to adjourn the meeting at 5:20p.m. AIF

Submitted by,  
Mary Swierad, clerk