

East Longmeadow Historical Commission
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Monday February 13, 2023

Location: Historical Room, EL Library, 60 Center Square, East Longmeadow, MA 01028

Call to order: 6:00 p.m.

Present were commissioners: Tom Behan, Bruce Moore, John Fitzpatrick, Joyce Kent, Andrea Driscoll, Ken Hancock and George Kingston.

Visiting the meeting: Chris Koetsch.

The minutes of the 1/09/23 meeting were read & reviewed.

Motion to accept the minutes was made by George and seconded, all in favor and the motion was passed.

The Treasurer's report was given by Treasurer, Ken Hancock.

Old Business:

1. The Museum's December 17, 2022 opening was reviewed.
2. Appreciation and acknowledgment was given to Ken for repair of Museum pump and water trough.
3. An update on Town Hall Bell Restoration progress was given by Ken and Tom.
4. A summary of rearrangement and clean up of Library History room was given.
5. Special guest, Jennifer Doherty's overview of Historic Preservation Planning was discussed with insight given of the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

New Business

1. The Museum's January 21st opening received 2 visitors.
2. Location of a historical district was discussed. A walk was suggested near rotary neighborhoods.
3. An update on the Library History Room archival storage progress was provided by George. CPC funding to share in costs is in progress.
4. Tom shared hand-outs documenting the 1851 Gold Rush Adventures of Gilbert Billings. Billings was born in 1831, in East Village, now known as the eastern portion of Longmeadow. Gilbert later married and settled down in Chicopee in 1860. Resources: The Chicopee Library Special Collections and the Longmeadow Historical Society.
5. Chris shared antique reprints of his historic home. Tom distributed antique photos of surrounding areas including Shaker Village. Bruce shared a 1901 Howes Brothers photo of 95 Prospect Street. Built in 1760, stories claim John Adams slept there. Bruce elaborated Prospect Street was once known as Route 86, Stage Coach Road.
6. Next Museum Opening is March 18th 1-3 pm.

Other Business

1. Andrea shared Reminder Publications would like on going Historical Commission information for future articles.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by George at 7:13 and seconded, all in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Driscoll, Secretary
East Longmeadow Historical Commission