

Preston Historical Society  
January 20, 2010  
Minutes

Executive Board Present: Linda and Mark Christensen, Bill Champagne, Donna Bowles  
Members Present: Gwen & Frank Zdancewicz, Laura Wisniewski, Bob Payette, Eleanor Miller,  
Mary Ann Melgey

Meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm by Linda Christensen

Secretary's minutes of July 1, 2009 were shared. *Minutes approved - Bill, Gwen - Unanimous.*

Treasurer's Report - There was no Treasurer's report

Committee Reports

**Membership** - 35 individual and family memberships for 2010

**Building and Maintenance**

**Signs** Mark C. has the sign Preston City from the north end of Route 164 - it will be sanded and repainted. Eleanor Miller will help with the artwork

**Old Library** - Laura and Gwen volunteered to hold a spring cleaning day for the interior of the Old Library

**Cemeteries** - We will try to organize a cemetery clean up day in April – possibly at Gates cemetery. Linda mentioned the number of stones that are cracked and on the group and that she and Dave Oat will look at them for possible reconstruction and at least take photos.

**Correspondence** - Correspondence and events at other historical societies were shared. Linda shared a letter from the Connecticut Paranormal Research Team requesting that the PHS hold a program about the paranormal at one of our local sites. Members agreed that we would not follow through on this request.

**Programs –**

**US Navy Band concert and Community Picnic** - August 21 at the Community Park - Linda, Bob and Gen Calcasola are part of the committee. They have received a grant from the Preston Community Fund towards publicity and are looking for more contributions.

**Local History Expo** – held on March 20 at the Latter Day Saints Church in Mystic. Linda will help publicize -

**Walking Weekend** - Linda C. and Dave Oat will do a walk at Long Society. Linda will check with Gail R. about a walk on the trolley rail bed. Donna will consider a walk on their property along the Quinebaug. Avalonia might also have a walk that PHS can participate in.

**New Programs** - Bill shared an article about the Brewster property prepared by Ross Harper. Linda will look into having him share his research at a program. We will also explore having Jason Mancini, from the Mashantucket-Pequot Archaeology Center, share some of the findings that were part of the HPTAG grant report.

**Old Business**

**HPTAG grant** - Electa Tritsch, our consultant, has completed the Heritage Landscape and Resource Planning Report and Recommendations. There are two hard copies currently and the report is on a .pdf. Members discussed where to go from here. It was decided to create a small committee to decide on our next step and how to proceed with presentation to the town. Linda, Bill, and Donna, along with Gary Piszczek, David Oat, and Gail Rigney (if they are amenable) will make up this committee and meet within the next few weeks.

**Preston Press** – Gen Calcasola is taking care of this for us. Linda will give her a short article about the HPTAG grant.

**New Business**

**New Grants** - We discussed the time schedule for various grant applications. The next one being the Last Green Valley Grant. Bill suggested that we look into hiring a consultant to study the possibility of a Scenic Road Bylaw. *A motion was made by Donna and seconded by Bob that we authorize Linda Christensen to apply to grants to implement the recommendations coming out of our Heritage Landscape and Resource Planning Report and Recommendations. The vote was unanimous.*

The next meeting will be held on March 24, 2010 at 7:00 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50  
Respectfully submitted,

Linda Christensen  
Acting Secretary  
Preston Historical Society