

MINUTES TO MEETING**MEETING DATE:** 09/12/22 @ 10:00 AM**ATTENDEES:** Rebecca Turner, Barbara Kalish, Abigail Rogers-McKee, Francis Nestor, Richard Burdsall, Douglas Cooper**DISTRIBUTION:** Attendees, town website**LOCATION:** Zoom

Discussion		Action By/Date
1.	General	
1.	08/08/22 minutes – duly moved, seconded and unanimously approved	
2.	New Business	
1.	Grant opportunities: EHC would like to reach out to someone that is knowledgeable about identifying and applying for grants that can further protection of historic landmarks in Egremont. DC will reach out to someone he has worked with. BK will contact Mary and learn how the town handles grants.	DC BK 10/3
2.	Attending MHC meetings: recommendation that we establish a calendar of meetings and take turns attending	
3.	Commemorating the passing of Bill Wood: Ideas range from purchasing a bench with a plaque or other form of commemoration by the EHC. To be discussed with Beth Wood	RT
4.	Retaining an archivist: EHC will reach out to Margaret Cherin and will investigate other options	BK/RT
5.	Congregational Church: Protection of architecturally significant buildings or building elements – EHC is concerned about the steeple and bell on the Congregational Church now under private ownership and whether there is any recourse to saving this building from ultimate demo or deterioration. Might there be a possibility of obtaining possession of the bell? Discussion to be continued.	
3.	1770 Beer Stein	
1.	1770 Beer Stein 1. Letter of acknowledgement and thanks 2. Submit RT article to Newsletter	RT 9/21 RT/BK
4.	Town Birthday Parties	
1.	Celebration was a rousing success with representation from the fire department, presentation on the river walk by Terry Moore, sales of Egremont made crafts, cards and postcards by the FoPL. For the future the focus will be on 250 th celebration in 2025 but may have small celebrations for 248 and 249. This effort will be led by the BoS with a committee of citizens in the future and will receive town funding.	
5.	Jug End State Reservation – Guilder Estate	
1.	Van Guilder Estate was documented in MACRIS in 1994-7	
2.	Article in the Egremont Newsletter due 9/21	BK
3.	Next steps: organize a committee to develop a plan for the site. Reached out to Tribal Historic Preservation who requested our goals for the property. The EHC hopes to pre-empt the DCR and prevent demolition by presenting a plan to the MHC. Meeting of the sub-committee (DC, FN & BK) 10/3 3-43:0 pm	BK 10/3 @ 3pm- 4:30 pm
4.	Governmental Agency Involvement	BK
	1. Contact Jeffrey Harris/DCR Cultural Resources (Jeffrey.harris@state.ma.us) learn status of Van Guilder Estate (VGE) 2. Get MHC contact 3. Understand the nature and implications of an Environmental Notification Form	BK
5.	Timeline of events to date 1. 2/24 – receive copy of project notification form submitted to MHC by DCR (Jeffery Harris) 2. 3/27 – EHC send formal response letter to DCR & MHC 3. 4/8 – receive copy of formal response from MHC directed to DCR	
6.	Received response from DCR on 4/15 that they will be consulting with MEPA (Mass Environmental Policy Act) to determine whether an Environmental Notification Form (ENF) will be required because the properties are part of MACRIS and its associations with the Stockbridge-Munsee Native American history. They will copy the EHC on their process and future communications with MHC 1. NOTE: 1737 deed to the property names (3) Stockbridge-Munsee Mohicans conveying the land to	

	John Van Guilder	
7.	No additional correspondence has been received from MHC or DCR to date.	
8.	Sub-committee (DC, FN & BK) meet on 4/14 to discuss options for creating an informative recreations site reusing existing foundation and gardens.	DC, BK, FN
9.	RT to follow up with MHC to see if any more has been done.	RT
10.	BK to form a committee to work on design options for the Guilder Estate.	BK 8/8
11.	Potential grant opportunities – speak to Juliette Haas regarding grants	BK8/8
12.	Potential to include several sectors of the Egremont/Sheffield population including representation from local Native American tribes since Van Guilder was Native American	
13.	John Van Guilder was a Wappinger Mohican	
14.	<p>The contact is: Bonney Hartley Tribal Historic Preservation Manager Stockbridge-Munsee Community Tribal Historic Preservation Extension office 86 Spring Street, Williamstown MA 01267 413-884-6048 Nda'keenā- Mohican Homelands</p> <p>Dr. Jeff Bendremer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer</p> <p>EHC to respond to Ms. Hartley and advise them of our plans for the site Dr. Bendremer/THPM will be contacting the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for a fuller understanding of current plans</p> <p>BK to follow-up</p>	BK 9/15
15.	Others with potential interest in this site: ConCom, Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs, Eileen Vining (previously instrumental in stopping development and DCR involvement, MHC (stopped demo of the buildings due to archeological and cultural significance of the property)	
16.	Confirm location of the Indian Line Trail and its relationship to this property	BK
6.	Demolition Delay Bylaw	
1.	Congregational Church: it was agreed that this bylaw would be a first step in protecting the church	
2.	EHC will invite the owner of the Congregational Church to a meeting to discuss potential plans for restoration	
3.	RT to forward MACRIS to BK for discussions with Owner	
4.	Grants: EHC to research grant opportunities. Invite Peg (Margaret) McDonough (Grant consultant to Egremont) to next meeting	
5.	Next Steps: DC to meet with neighboring towns to learn what the opposition to the DD bylaw may have been	DC, RT
6.	DC reached out to Elliott Snyder to discuss past work on the Bylaw. ES reiterated that a change to the bylaw would require public hearing and the procedure is outlined in MGL Ch. 40A Section 5. Anticipating public objections will be critical for success. In the past this has been done with informal Q&A meetings or survey mailings. DC suggested the possibility of a professionally run focus group. DC to talk with Jared Kelly, Mary Brazie and Juliette Hass to see if the town or other committee's have used focus groups or something similar.	On Hold until September
7.	Having a written talking points or questions for commission members to start talking with citizens in an informal way to get some public opinion.	
8.	Look at forming a committee to review the proposed bylaw outside of the Commission	
9.	Strategy	DC, BK
1.	1. Reach out to Lenox HC for advice and lessons learned	
7.	Academy Renovation	
1.	Steeple repair: structure in poor condition. To be restored pending change order approval and available funding.	RT
2.	Schedule for completion : TBD	
8.	Academy Garden	
1.	BK spoke with Peg Muskrat. She will speak with the Library BoT regarding involvement in the	

	development of a garden. The BoT was not involved in obtaining the grant	
2.	Tom Reynolds advised that Buildings and Grounds will not be responsible for maintenance	
3.	EHC agreed that this was not in their scope of work but would participate	
4.	RT volunteered to lead this committee with involvement by other groups	RT
5.	Possible reach out to Alexis Wreden for design services	
6.	BK to represent the EHC	BK
	1) Potential Committee Members – Peg Muskrat/Land Trust/Library Trustee/Garden Club, AM/Garden Club/Land Trust Susan Bachelder (citizen), Lucinda Vermuelen/SB, Tom Reynolds/Town Maintenance, Alexis Wreden – landscape consultant	BK
7.	Grant from the Land Trust of \$10,000 received. No restrictions	
8.	It was agreed that the EHC is fully supportive of plans to create a Community Garden and is happy to kick-off the effort and have representation, but it is not in the scope of a Historical Commission to direct, lead or implement these plans. We will in the initiation of this process.	BK 9/12
9.	The grant is not dependent on reproducing the concept design in grant request. It was intended as a suggestion of what might be done in that space. The final design should meet the goals and scope agreed upon by the Library Trustees and the community. No donor representation is required. The Land Trust is currently holding the \$10k grant since they have 501k3 status. Confirm stipulations in the Grant with Maureen Steiner	BK 9/12
9.	EHC Website	
1.	Add historic maps of Egremont	
2.	Ref. that Egremont is listed in the Registry of National Historic Places	
3.	EHC members to review website and forward comments on revisions to FN	
4.	FN to coordinate with Carolyn for updates and addition of oral history recordings. These are currently on the EHC computer in the archive.	FN
5.	FN to follow up on credit card info for website/domain payment with Mary Brazie	FN
6.	The information on the website should be revised to include the EHC Mission Statement, clearly delineating our function as a Commission and not a Society	FN
7.	RB will edit the Mass Hist mission statement for review by the EHC	RB
10.	MACRIS	
1.	Include Prospect Lake and Camp Ground in next write up.	RT
2.	Visit site and look for stone pillars as shown in various photos	BK
3.	Schedule – TBD based on completion of revisions by Beth Wood	
11.	Oral History Project	
1.	BT & RB will meet on 9/19 at town hall to discuss project & begin recording stories	
2.	Develop list of potential interviewees 1. Richard Burdsall – read and tape stories, interview by BK 2. Fay Wood – to be contacted by BK Craig Elliot – Tales from the General Store and other stories – interview by BK/RB	BK, RB
3.	BK had emailed the oral history permission form to the town for review/approval and has not heard back. She will re-send to the town for review.	BK
4.	Beth Wood has some old tapes from when Lynn interviewed Gertrude Burdsall and will get them to us	
12.	ON GOING – Not discussed	
1.	Scholar's Dinner 1. Shays Rebellion, the "Farmers Coup" 2. EGR 127 – home of Ephraim Fitch who resided there until 1794	
2.	Archive collection / organization / layout 1. EHC to discuss revised goals, program and plans for archives 2. EHC to retain an archivist to assist with organization of the archives. RT to identify potential consultants. RT to reach out to Margaret Cherin for a proposal and schedule	RT
3.	Egremont Newsletter – Future article ideas 1. Egremont is listed as a Historic District by the National Registry since 1980's – what does this mean to Egremont? 2. Shun Toll Road – early way round to avoid paying the toll	BK

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Owner: Neal and Rene Goff, 304 Egremont Plain Road b. House has been moved c. See map by Nancy Kuntz which shows Toll Station just north of Shun Toll Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Jug End 4. Prospect Lake – campground possibly being turned into a Glampground by the new owner 5. Pinecrest Hill 6. Kenver 7. Col. Smiley 	
4.	<p>Future Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a local outreach program to inform the community of our mission/activities/etc. 2. Coffee, Tea and History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. History of April and using a Historic Preservation Restriction – Will Conklin b. Prospect lay history in photos and stories c. 60 years of the Egremont Garden Club 3. Invite Library Trustees to discuss opportunities for collaboration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Library Inventory archive 4. Invite 1-2 representatives from the following neighboring Historical Commissions/Societies for a coffee and cake collaboration session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sheffield, Stockbridge, Mt. Washington, New Marlboro, Great Barrington 5. COVID-19 historical record and stories 6. EHC newsletter for distribution annually. Short report about events and upcoming initiatives 7. EHC mission statement 8. Genealogy Records – to be digitized. 	
13.	Next Meeting	
1.	Monday Oct 3 @ 1:00 pm – Zoom	RT
14.	End of Minutes	
1.	Submitted by Barbara Kalish	