

MINUTES TO MEETING**MEETING DATE: 10/03/22 @ 10:00 AM****ATTENDEES: Rebecca Turner, Barbara Kalish, Abigail Rogers-McKee, Francis Nestor, Douglas Cooper, Richard Burdsall, Peg McDonough****LOCATION: Zoom****DISTRIBUTION: Attendees, town website,**

Discussion		Action By/Date
1.	General	
a..	09/12/22 minutes – duly moved, seconded and unanimously approved	
2.	New Business	
a..	Egremont's 250 th Anniversary – Events leading up to the anniversary 1) Historical book club 2) Coord w Cultural Resource Counsel – members (?) 3) Scholars Dinner	BK
b..	Attending MHC meetings: recommendation that we establish a calendar of meetings and take turns attending	
c..	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
d..	Retaining an archivist: EHC will reach out to Margaret Cherin and will investigate other options	BK/RT
e..	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.	Grant Opportunities	
a..	Peg McDonough, who joined our meeting, has been retained by Egremont as a consultant to assist with identifying and crafting grant applications.	
b..	Upcoming grant potential 1) MHC: grants for survey and planning phases of initiatives – for town owned buildings (Guilder Farm is state owned) – Academy, 2) Community Preservation Act. Previously turned down by the town, but this has been enormously beneficial for other towns such as GB and we should re-open this discussion, 3) Cultural resource plan – possible collaboration with the Cultural Counsel, Van Guilder Farm/Estate on Jug End – possible grants related to the Wappinger Mohegans – See Gary Leveille; <u>Eye of Shawenon</u> 4) Restoration of books and archival material – more in the scope of a Society not a Commission but perhaps we could manage the project with a consultant 5) Cultural grant for the Oral History Project (OHP) – perhaps for retaining a consultant, 6) Historical video for presentation on the website leading up to the town's 250 th anniversary 7) Symposium – series of scholar talks – Possible NEA grants 8) Archive – digital scanning – partner with NFP, equipment such as flatbed scanners for digitizing maps and etc.	
c..	Initiatives to date 1) MACRIS	
d..	Next steps 1) Establish priorities 2) Define a way to manage funding since the Commission is a governmental agency not a 501C3. Possibly partner with another group that is a 501C3 such as the Land Trust 3) Facilitate cross-connections between the EHC and other commissions/committees with similar interests, Land Trust, ConCom, other towns 4) Retain a consultant for the archives, OHP, historical video,	
4.	1770 Beer Stein	
a..	1770 Beer Stein 1. Obtain an appraisal and insurance if warranted – Elliot/Grace Snyder	RT

5.	Town Birthday Parties	
a..	The BoS will create a dedicated committee that can function as a 501C3. EHC will participate	LV BK
6.	Jug End State Reservation – VanGuilder Estate	
a..	Issue a letter of introduction via email to understand what MHC is doing at the moment regarding the estate	DC
b..	Next Meeting: Tue 10/18 @ 9am via zoom	BK/DC/ FN/RT
c..	Van Guilder Estate was documented in MACRIS in 1994-7	
d..	Article in the Egremont Newsletter due 9/21	BK
e..	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 3-4:30 pm	BK 10/3 @ 3pm- 4:30 pm
f..	Governmental Agency Involvement	BK
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Contact Jeffrey Harris/DCR Cultural Resources (Jeffrey.harris@state.ma.us) learn status of Van Guilder Estate (VGE) MHC contact would be Elizabeth Sherva, Director of Architectural Review. elizabeth.sherva@state.ma.us Understand the nature and implications of an Environmental Notification Form 	DC RT
g..	Information Flow <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Receive copy of project notification form submitted to MHC by DCR (Jeffery Harris) – RT to forward email EHC send formal response letter to DCR & MHC Receive copy of formal response from MHC directed to DCR 	RT
h..	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 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> NOTE: 1737 deed to the property names (3) Stockbridge-Munsee Mohicans conveying the land to John Van Guilder 	
i..	No additional correspondence has been received from MHC or DCR to date.	
j..	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
k..	RT to follow up with MHC to see if any more has been done.	RT
l..	BK to form a committee to work on design options for the Guilder Estate.	BK 8/8
m..	Potential grant opportunities – speak to Juliette Haas regarding grants	BK8/8
n..	Potential to include several sectors of the Egremont/Sheffield population including representation from local Native American tribes since Van Guilder was a Wappinger Mohecgan	
o..	John Van Guilder was a Wappinger Mohican	
p..	<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 10/18

q..	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)	
r..	Confirm location of the Indian Line Trail and its relationship to this property	BK
7.	Demolition Delay Bylaw	
a..	Congregational Church: it was agreed that this bylaw would be a first step in protecting the church	
b..	EHC will invite the owner of the Congregational Church to a meeting to discuss potential plans for restoration	
c..	RT to forward MACRIS to BK for discussions with Owner	
d..	Grants: EHC to research grant opportunities. Invite Peg (Margaret) McDonough (Grant consultant to Egremont) to next meeting	
e..	Next Steps: DC to meet with neighboring towns to learn what the opposition to the DD bylaw may have been	DC, RT
f..	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
g..	Having a written talking points or questions for commission members to start talking with citizens in an informal way to get some public opinion.	
h..	Look at forming a committee to review the proposed bylaw outside of the Commission	
i..	Strategy 1. Reach out to Lenox HC for advice and lessons learned	DC, BK
8.	Academy Renovation	
a..	Currently unconditioned space. Concern for stability of documents etc in the archives. RT to follow up with the Bos	RT
b..	Bell tower repair: To be restored pending change order approval and available funding.	RT
c..	Schedule for completion : TBD	
9.	Academy Garden	
a..	RT volunteered to lead this committee with involvement by other groups	RT
b..	Possible reach out to Alexis Wreden for design services	
c..	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
10.	EHC Website	
a..	Add historic maps and photos of Egremont	FN
b..	Ref. that Egremont is listed in the Registry of National Historic Places	FN
c..	FN to coordinate with Carolyn for updates and addition of oral history recordings. These are currently on the EHC computer in the archive.	FN
d..	FN to follow up on credit card info for website/domain payment with Mary Brazie – no town credit card just reimbursement of expenses	FN
e..	RB will edit the Mass Hist mission statement for review by the EHC 1) Who we are? 2) What we do? 3) Why we do it	RB
11.	MACRIS	
a..	Include Prospect Lake and Camp Ground in next write up.	RT
b..	Visit site and look for stone pillars as shown in various photos	BK
c..	EHC has requested a proposal from Beth Woods for completion and correction of draft submission – proposal received and agreed upon. – in progress	
12.	Oral History Project	
a..	Develop list of potential interviewees 1. Richard Burdsall – read and tape stories, interview by BK 2. Fay Wood – to be contacted by BK	BK, RB June

	Craig Elliot – Tales from the General Store and other stories – interview by BK/RB	
b..	BK had re-emailed the oral history permission form to the town for review/approval	BK
13.	ON GOING	
a..	Scholar’s Dinner – See Grant Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shays Rebellion, the “Farmers Coup” 2. EGR 127 – home of Ephraim Fitch who resided there until 1794 	DC
b..	Archive collection / organization / layout – see Grant opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
c..	Egremont Newsletter – Future article ideas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <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 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 	BK
d..	Future Outreach <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. Genealogy Records – to be digitized. 	
14.	Next Meeting	
a..	Monday Nov 7 @ 10am – Zoom	RT
15.	End of Minutes	
a..	Submitted by Barbara Kalish	