

PERU HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Meeting held: SATURDAY, December 14, 2019, 12:00-1:00pm

Location: PERU Community Center, MAIN RD, PERU, MA 01235

Attendees: Jim Kenney, Susan Masino, Ed Munch, Dick Burke

Absent: Adam Trumble

Guests: Irene Morrison, Coralie Pelkey

1. Jim Kenney called the meeting to order at 12:10
2. Acknowledgement of Meeting recording status. – This meeting was not recorded
3. Review and finalization of the September 28, 2019 meeting minutes – The minutes, as proposed, were accepted and signed by the present members. J. Kenney will provide the minutes to the Town Clerk
4. Follow-up on Action Items from previous meetings – Update from, waiting to hear back on optical character recognition (Susan). It may work to scan and convert to word. S. Masino indicated that progress is being made with a professional Librarian at Pittsfield library to use optical character recognition software. The software may be able to convert the 200th anniversary booklet and the supplement to 1995 to MS Word for combining, updating and editing. The members need to discuss what to add to 250th book and consider going back 50 years and adding relevant information.
5. Review of the November 4, 2019 BoS Minutes relating to Mr. Steele's comment. Irene Morrison and Coralie Pelkey, representing the 250th Committee, attended to address the suggestions made by Laurin Steele. Mr. Steele is interested in making sure history of Highway Dept. and Fire Dept. are captured. He is also interested in display dinner plates with images/emblems around edges. J. Kenney offered to send an e-mail to Mr. Steele by way of follow-up.
6. Discuss Sarah Ferguson monument: Memorial or grave marker?: It appears that the stone near Garnet Lake is a monument not a grave marker. It was to commemorate her favorite place since the area had previously been the Ferguson Farm. Sarah Ferguson did not die childless but she did die young.
7. General discussion / update on any on-going activities for Town's 250th Celebration (self-guided tour, Christmas ornament sales)

Post-Meeting Note: One thousand dollars, as approved at an Annual Town Meeting, has been confirmed by the Town Accountant as available for the design and initial order of ornaments.

Discussion about ornament: Members agreed that some kind of iconic graphic image is needed, preferable an historical image, not the current Peru flag. Images considered include a minuteman, the tower or perhaps the Creamer general store. Other suggestions were to consider including 1771-2021, the name of 'Partridgefield' since Peru was originally named Partridgefield, the image of the Garnet Hill monument. Other considerations for inspiration include Lafayette, Israel Bissell and any "famous sons" of Peru

S. Masino will work with a graphic artist. The design is up to Historical Commission and will be run by 250th Committee

Ed Munch shared that he plans to do a philatelic postal history of Peru with other people in the county. And will include civil war materials with Peru postal mark. Ed has other materials with Peru post office stamp. The display will be under glass. Ed will also display the Creamer general store ledger in a display case.

General discussion of other materials at the library in cases and part of a tour.

Ed suggested that historical signs could be made to mark special sites, similar to Windsor which can be put on public rights of way.

8. Info Pass – Posting of the J. Stergis Peru Road Names document: Jim shared historical information on old roads assembled by Joe Stergis. This document has been scanned from hardcopies kept in the Peru Library and will be posted on the Town's homepage
9. Info Pass – Tentative dates for the 250th Celebration – July 15 – July 18, 2021
10. Update regarding the formation of a Cemetery Commission: There is a notice posted on the Town webpage soliciting interested individuals to submit a letter of interest. J. Kenney asked that Historical Commission members to solicit others to send a letter of interest to town administrator.
11. Planning for 2020 Historical Commission Meetings: Meetings will again be planned for the second Saturday of every other month, starting in February 2020
12. Any Other Business: Jim shared history of Oliver Partridge, Esq. and found genealogy back to 1370. He was born in Hatfield but that is the origin of the Partridgefield name. Emily, the great great granddaughter of Oliver Partridge was one of the plural wives of Joseph Smith and Brigham Young.

It appears that the town will have high speed internet soon! In time for 250th.

13. Meeting adjourned at 1:10

James Kenney, Chairman

Susan Masino, Member

The image shows two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature, for James P. Kenney, is written over a horizontal line. The second signature, for Susan Masino, is also written over a horizontal line.

Ed Munch, Member Ed Munch

Richard Burke, Member Richard Burke

Adam Trumble, Member _____ Absent _____

Approved: 2/15/20