

**Historic Preservation Committee  
Town of Westport**

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Committee of February 6, 2014

Members present: Peter Bloch, Ron Bowen, Ray Mejia, Martin Timmins, Nancy Schlimgen and Dave O'Malley

Members absent: None

Others present: Jeanette Hermanson

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

**December 9, Minutes**

Minutes were approved unanimously with minor modification that Peter Bloch was not an official member until Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. (Note there was no meeting in January)

**Old Business**

Historic Resources Consultant- Ray mentioned he had talked with Rebecca regarding the draft planning for the Wilcox site. She will be able to come to our March meeting to present a draft plan for the site that will include a trail, interpretive signs/displays and possibly a unique type of kiosk. We discussed many ideas for the site and all agreed everything should tie into the Ella Wheeler Wilcox history since that is what makes this property significant. We discussed adding interpretive signs along a trail to explain period history/significance, including poems on some signs, and interpretation at the original homesite including old photos and a replica stone foundation. Plantings could also be done of vegetation known to be present during that period. Ray asked members to submit any other ideas to Rebecca prior to the next meeting.

Informal Interviews- Nothing new to report on interviews. We agreed to continue thinking about ways we could compile the interview summaries. We will continue to hold off on Judy's work for now but we still need to consider how to get this all summarized.

Old Military Road Survey- We discussed Marty's email exchange with Bob Birmingham regarding the old trail route. Looks like we still need to confirm some locations and review maps. Dave will bring maps to next mtg. We discussed having an interpretive sign and trail signs if this aligns near existing trails and we will collaborate with the Parks Committee. Ron said he will talk with Terry Enge about this. Also Nancy mentioned she could check with the State Archaeologist for additional info.

**New Business**

None

**Miscellaneous Business**

Peter mentioned he had learned that Diane Hesselbein's family had a house located off Woodland Drive near SouthBridge? That may be of interest for one of our next inventories. We discussed this could possibly be added in the future as we try to do these in batches of 4 or 5 homes.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for March 6 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Administration Building.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business brought before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Dave O'Malley