

Bolton Historical Commission
Minutes of Meeting
October 4, 2023

Attendees:

Chairman: Robert Busch

Members Present: Robert Tattersall, Alice Coggeshall, Jeannemarie Padovano, and Nate Smith

Member Absent: Martha Remington

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm

Updates:

- East End Historic District Status & Planning - There is nothing new to report from A. Forbes or the MA Historical Commission. Approval seems to be on track for sometime in 2024. BHC will send out written and emailed invites to property owners for a public zoom meeting at which we will outline the benefits of a National Register Historic District.
- Update on 22 West Berlin Rd - No new updates. Chairman Busch will again attempt to contact the homeowner to set up a time and date for him to access the interior to take pictures.
- Persons Park Memorial Status - BHC members all agreed that the mock-up from Leominster Monument Co. looks good, and approval of the benches was unanimous. The benches will be installed either later this fall or in the spring. Since the bases will be set in concrete, the weather will impact the installation date.

New Topics:

- Citizen letter regarding 642 Main St. - The BHC reviewed the letter and confirmed that it has no authority to dictate or critique homeowner decorating or design choices. Bolton has no Local Historical District, where such regulation is common.
https://drive.google.com/file/d/185okcFtsSVHO7JS9pJa1zGRYqe83blb/view?usp=drive_link
- Fall Work at Pan Cemetery - Chairman Busch will talk with M. Remington about getting some options for dates this fall. Members will be in touch over email and/or our next meeting.
- BHC members are required to complete the Conflict of Interest Law on-line training, and deliver a copy of their certificate to Pam Powell.

Administrative

- Review and approve outstanding minutes - July and September minutes were unanimously approved.
- A. Coggeshall will bring her file of expenses over to Town hall and leave it on the BHC's file cabinet for storage.

Meeting adjourned at 6:39pm
Respectfully Submitted, Jeannemarie Padovano

Next meeting: November 1, 2023

September 8, 2023

Historical Commission of Bolton
663 Main Street
Bolton, MA 01740

Historical Commission Members,

We are writing to you today for clarity on a town issue. We looked for meeting minutes from the past few months but see that no minutes have been posted of Historical Commission meetings since December of 2022. As we are sure you have seen, a home registered as a Historic, at 642 Main Street in Bolton, has been repainted as well as several flags mounted street-facing.

We are requesting that an agenda item be added for the October meeting and minutes posted to explain if this change in street-facing color and flags was approved by the Historical Commission. If it was not, we are requesting minutes outlining the next steps the Historical Commission will take to ensure the home is repainted to fit within the historical guidelines of such a home in the middle of our historic town.

If this change was approved, we would also like minutes posted which reflect the reasoning as it would be difficult to understand how the color chosen would reflect upon a specific time or architectural period.

We understand the sensitivity of this specific home and the issues that could be faced with pushing back on agreed upon norms and rules of the Historical Commission. However, we have such a Commission to ensure these historic homes are kept as per rules and regulations and we cannot allow rules to be broken by some and enforced on others.

We look forward to seeing a discussion at your next meeting and minutes posted promptly after.

Thanks,

Concerned Citizens of Bolton