

**Wakefield Historical Commission  
Minutes  
November 1, 2022**

Present: Dan Benjamin, Fran Harrington, Cathlina Driver, Therese Frazier, Marc DiBella, Frank Giangreggio, Nancy Bertrand, Chair

Also present: Town Councilor Ed Dombroski

The meeting was **called to order** at 7:30 p.m.

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Dan Benjamin.

There was no **public participation**.

The **Minutes** of the previous meeting, which had been emailed to the Commission Members, were reviewed and accepted as presented.

**Bills were reviewed:** \$360 to the Wakefield Item for the publication of the Notice of Public Meeting; 98.00 for annual Membership to the American Association for State and Local History, a public history nonprofit organization. The bills were unanimously accepted.

Nancy reviewed her remarks to the Town Council, when she had represented the Commission in a meeting on October on the **state of the town's historic buildings** and sites, noting problems with the Bandstand, some drainage issues and other small matters at the Hartshorne House, the leaking roof at the West Ward School (the asphalt roof is 30 years old), and the ongoing preservation issues with the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on the Common. The Monument, donated by the Town by Harriet Flint, was built in 1902 and has a number of condition issues, including the need for restoration of several of the figures on the statue as well as overall cleaning and stabilization needs. The Monument was the subject of vandalism in the 1970s and the subsequent repairs need to be examined for stability. An assessment done fifteen years ago noted that the repairs needed at that time were estimated at \$250,000. Councilor Dombroski noted that a new Assessment is needed and thought that the Town Council could consider paying for this Assessment out of the town's available funds. Nancy will furnish the old Assessment as well information on the Daedalus Restoration Company of Cambridge, who did the old assessment, and other possible vendors for this work.

A **Public Hearing began at 8:00 p.m.** on the applications to the Building Inspector for permits to raze two historic buildings: the historic homes at 1 Hickory Hill (AKA 13 Greenwood Street) and 8 Myrtle Avenue, both of which built in the mid nineteenth century. The owner or owner's representative of both properties were heard on their own behalf. The Commission voted to impose the Demolition Delay on both of these applications.

The Commission discussed whether to return to in-person meetings and tabled the issue until the spring.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.** The next meeting will be on December 13th, and will be virtual.