

Commission Members
Jeanne Johnson, Co-Chair
Cher Hamilton, Co-Chair
Paul Russell, Vice Chair
Annmarie Fontecchio, Treasurer
Eugene Liscombe, Member
Richard Eustis, Member
Isabel Nulter, Member



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TOWN OF MEDWAY COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Minutes

Wednesday, March 27, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Senior Center, 76 Oakland Street

Members in attendance: Jeanne Johnson, Cher Hamilton, Annmarie Fontecchio, Paul Russell, Isabel Nulter

Members absent: Gene Liscombe, Rich Eustis

Others in attendance: Barbara Saint Andre, Director, Community and Economic Development

Meeting was called to order by Historical Commission co-chair Cher Hamilton at 7:07 p.m.

1. Demolition Applications to consider – None
2. Possible discussion from members of the public: none
3. Review Minutes from February 21, 2024. Ms. Fontecchio noted one correction. **On a motion made by Mr. Russell, seconded by Ms. Fontecchio, the Historical Commission voted 4-0-1 to approve the February 21, 2024 meeting minutes as corrected. Ms. Nulter abstained.**
4. Treasurer's Report—Annmarie Fontecchio reported no change from last month.
5. Report of Community Preservation Committee (CPC) –Paul Russell reported that the CPC approved the request for \$4,500.00 for historical signs to be placed on the 2024 Annual Town Meeting warrant. They are still working on Ide House renovations. The Select Board wants to have a committee established to review what should be done with Ide House.
6. Project Updates (Old Business)
 - A. Evergreen and Oakland Cemetery Stone Repair Project –Mr. Russell sent e-mail messages to cemetery contacts asking if they have arranged to have Kai Nalenz (or another restoration tech) begin work at their respective cemeteries, reminding them that the work must be completed within a year. (Christine Spencer, Treasurer, Evergreen Cem) (Roger Cummings, contact for Oakland Cem). Mr. Russell reports that he has not heard back from his contacts at either cemetery so he is not sure if work has started yet.
 - B. Local Historic Districts – has everyone read the document describing the procedure for this at the MA Historical Commission site? (Ms. Saint Andre sent us a link to this document). Mr. Russell had proposed sending a letter to certain owners of historic properties. It was discussed that we will need a consultant to help with establishing a local historic district. There is a lot of research and technical work involved. Mr. Russell emailed a contact at the Town of Dover but did not hear back. Ms. Fontecchio and Ms. Hamilton suggested we consider an historic district

centered on the Village District and into the flats area. Mr. Russell wants to look at oldest houses first. We will need to research each house to be included in the district. The members agreed to send out letters first. Ms. Saint Andre will look into applying for a One-Stop grant and will draft a letter and send to Mr. Russell.

- C. Signs (High Street School and Railroad stations) - Received an estimate from Ben Phillips for the layout. Once he has produced a layout, we will need to review and go to Select Board and Design Review Committee.
- D. Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding for projects—The article will be on town meeting warrant

7. New Business

A. Town received letter from Ben Haley, National Register Director, MA Historical Commission, regarding eligibility of Ide House and its next-door neighbor at 160 Main Street, the Mary (Ide) Torrey house, for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. More research is needed. Ms. Hamilton stated that the Historical Society is working on this. Mr. Russell has sent them a lot of information.

B. Vote needed to approve estimate from Ben Phillips Design (\$325 for design work on the High Street School and Railroad station signs.) **On a motion made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Russell, the Historical Commission voted 5-0-0 to approve the estimate of \$325.00 for design work for the two signs.**

C. Annual report for 2023 was written by Ms. Johnson, reviewed by Ms. Hamilton and Mr. Russell, and submitted for annual town report.

D. Discuss Articles on Annual Town Meeting warrant. Ms. Saint Andre discussed the proposed zoning amendment for so-called MBTA community zoning. She explained that Medway is considered an MBTA adjacent community because the Town abuts Franklin and Norfolk that have commuter rail stations. The town needs to comply by the end of this year. The Planning and Economic Development Board has been working on this for a year. We need to zone at least 50 acres to allow multi-family housing by right at a density of at least 15 units per acre, for a total of 750 possible units allowed by zoning. The law does not require any actual building, just providing the zoning. There have been many public meetings, including a public hearing and a joint meeting with the Select Board. The two areas that are designated for the new zoning are the Hathon apartments site (33 and 39 Main Street), and a portion of 154 Summer Street. The portion of 154 Summer Street to be included in the new zoning would have an entrance only on Summer Street to keep the traffic from the abutting residential neighborhood. There is currently no town water or sewer for this site, so it will be difficult to build it out to full capacity. There is also a moratorium on any extension of the sewer system due to capacity issues. It is unlikely that there will suddenly be 600 units of housing on the site, as some are claiming.

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Johnson by seconded by Ms. Nulter, vote 5-0-0 at 7:52 p.m.

Next meeting will be Wednesday April 24, 2024, Senior Center, 7:00 p.m.