



TOWN OF MEDWAY
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

*Medway Town Hall
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Minutes

Wednesday, December 22, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

In-person Meeting at Senior Center, 76 Oakland Street

*Commission
Members*

Jeanne Johnson,
Chair

Paul Russell, Vice
Chair

Eugene Liscombe,
Treasurer,
Representative to
Community
Preservation
Committee

Cher Hamilton,
Member

McKenzie Ward,
Member

Morgan Harris,
Member

Rich Eustis,
Member

Members in Attendance: Cher Hamilton, Paul Russell, Morgan Harris,
Jeanne Johnson, Gene Liscombe

Members Absent: McKenzie Ward, Rich Eustis

Others Present: Barbara Saint Andre, Director of Community and Economic
Development, Katherine Mitchell, Recording Secretary; Sheila Dubrawski;
Almont Green

**Meeting was called to order by Historical Commission Chair, Jeanne Johnson at
7:06 PM.**

Two guests attended the meeting, Sheila Dubrawski – President of Medway
Historical Society, and Almont Green, Historical Society member. Almont, a 3D
photographic artist and owner of Almont Green Corp., produces items of
historical interest such as postcards showing historical scenes and is a consultant
on preserving old histories and images through digitization. They discussed the
idea of digitizing Rev. E. O. Jameson's "History of Medway, Mass 1713-1885,"

published by the Town of Medway in 1886. Though the book is already available online, Mr. Green said
the methods of digitizing did not produce particularly good quality, especially where the images in the
book are concerned. Ms. Dubrawski asked if this were a project the Historical Commission would like to
pursue. One advantage to doing this now is to facilitate the printing of town-authorized books for sale.
With this authorized version, Almont stated the Town can reclaim ownership of the book and offer both
printed and digital versions with links to other publications in the future, along with an updated cross-
referenced index.

Paul asked Mr. Green to make a proposal, including costs, that we can present to the CPC for their
support in requesting CPA funding. Jeanne suggested itemizing details as well as photos. Mr. Green
agreed and will come to our next meeting.

I. Demolition applications to consider: none as of this date.

II. Treasurer's Report (Gene Liscombe) No change. \$2,500 balance.

III. Minutes to consider – November 17, 2021

On a motion made by Paul, seconded by Cher, the Historical Commission Committee voted
unanimously to approve the November 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

IV. CPC Report (Gene Liscombe) No updates. Gene is concerned that he may not be receiving
meeting notices from the CPC and, thus, might be missing meetings. Barbara will check into this matter.

V. Project Updates

A. Evergreen Cemetery

Paul, Morgan, and Jeanne attended the Volunteer Appreciation Event at Thayer Homestead on December 13. Select Board Member Dennis Crowley asked Paul and Jeanne about future plans for the cemetery now that it is on the National Register of Historic Places, and they discussed projects that have already taken place. We still intend to install at least two signs at the cemetery describing its history and importance.

B. Flagpoles/Fencing--Project is complete.

C. Flexible wraps for traffic signal boxes

Need to contact Cultural Council and/or Design Review Committee as they were interested in having student artwork installed on one box. Barbara asked how many boxes there are. Paul stated about 12 but only a few that people actually walk past and stop, such as Route 109 / Holliston Street and intersection of Route 109 and Lincoln Street. Paul suggested installing pictures on only two sides, not the entire boxes. Discuss further in the Spring. We can utilize our \$2,500 budget to pay for this project; this money must be used before June 30 or it goes back into general funds of the town.

D. Demolition By-Law revision

Jeanne got an email from Allison Potter wondering if the committee had changes. By-Law review committee would like to have input and they are interested in changes by all committees to see what they would like to do at May town meeting.

Article XVII, Section 3.6 (ii) Homes built before 1800. 1800-1899. 1900-1999.

We were concerned after meeting by Zoom with members of the Medway Master Plan – we should give houses deemed “preferably-preserved” a longer consideration/waiting period. The other change was to be more specific on what we would like the owners to do within this delay period. Barbara has reviewed the law and provided her edits. Members agree the age delineation makes the bylaw clearer. Built before 1800 – (1700-1799). Barbara will incorporate that into the by-law. Barbara suggested finalize this by the next meeting so we have a potential article for January to send to other committees for comment. Vote tonight to go forward with the article presented with the age change submitted tonight. Cher questioned if the Town would be able to hire a structural engineer. On call engineering firm – agreement with the Town of Medway. Add a clause that the Town reserves the right to hire a structural engineer.

On a motion made by Morgan Harris, seconded by Gene Liscombe, Committee members voted to approve sending the final version of Article 17 to the by-law review committee for their input on its inclusion on the warrant of the May Annual Town Meeting.

E. Local historic districts

Barbara sent guidelines for us to consider. Members did not get to review in full. Focus on this after the holidays. Need an idea of what we are going to set up for restrictions. Form a letter to be sent to owners of the 34 homes built before 1800. Invite them to a meeting to discuss. Large project- discuss in January 2022. Historical Survey of the Town done in the late 1990's has much information already started by historian Claire Dempsey from Mass Historical Commission. Located in the file cabinets in the basement at the Town Hall. Photographer Tim Rice might be working on digitizing the photos taken during this period.

F. Signage: signs for other historic sites in Medway. Jeanne is to get name of production company.

VI. New Business

A. Proposed Cutler Place Multi-Family Development – 6 Cutler Street (FYI) Jeanne received an email from Suzie about 6 Cutler Street. They are going to try to use the existing building. Not in horrible shape but needs a lot of work. They need to add another building and parking spaces.

B. Paul suggests we make a list of projects we plan to work on in 2022.

Possibilities include: Plaques for Garnsey Site, Evergreen, others. Arrange to have portrait hanging in Town Hall meeting room cleaned. Paul started a list and shared it. Added Historic Markers for other Medway historic sites.

On a motion made by Cher; seconded by Paul, the Historical Commission voted unanimously vote to adjourn at 8:50 PM.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2022, at 7:00 p.m at the Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Mitchell, Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved at the March 23, 2022 meeting.