



TOWN OF MEDWAY
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

*Medway Town Hall
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Minutes

*Commission
Members*

Wednesday, January 26, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
In-person Meeting at Senior Center, Oakland Street

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: Paul Russell, Morgan Harris, Jeanne Johnson,
Gene Liscombe

Members Absent: McKenzie Ward, Rich Eustis, Cher Hamilton

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

**Meeting was called to order by Historical Commission Chair, Jeanne Johnson at
7:02 PM.**

- I. Guests Sheila Dubrawski and Almont Green (Medway Historical Society) presented a proposal for digitizing Jameson's Medway History 1713-1885, as we requested when they spoke to us in December.
 - a. Almont shared his proposal for the members to review. He mentioned the book is 582 pages.
 - b. Gave detailed Scope of the Project (see attachment to these minutes)
 - c. Enough uniqueness that not only could it be copyrighted but other means of protection when it's completed, so it is owned by the Town.
- d. The book makes a great standalone project and becomes the template for other books. Other towns have a similar book to the Jameson book – Milford, Bellingham, Franklin (a few). This project sets up infrastructure to cross reference other towns. Can be a way for a centralized database of information that all the towns can benefit from.
- e. Did not include printing the books but that should be a separate cost. It is hard to predict the cost, depending on how many books will be purchased.
- f. Paul asked for ball park idea of cost; answer is that it depends on type of binding, etc.; it could be about \$150 per book.
- g. From the time it gets funded, project would take about six weeks.

On a motion made by Paul Russell, seconded by Gene Liscombe, the Historical Commission unanimously approved making a request of \$8,500.00 from CPA funds for the Rev. E. O. Jameson/ "History of Medway, Mass 1713-1885" Book Project. This includes a limited number of printed copies of the book. Historical Commission will work with CPC to present this project and include a request for funds on the May Annual Meeting Warrant.

II. **Demolition application to consider:** None as of Jan. 24.

III. **Review Minutes of December 22 :** Defer to February 23rd meeting.

IV. Treasurer's report (Gene Liscombe) No updates.

V. Report of CPC meetings (Gene Liscombe) No updates.

VI. Project updates/discussion (Old Business)

A. Evergreen Cemetery – signs, etc. (see below)

B. Flexible wraps around traffic signal boxes – further discussion? (see below)

C. Local Historic Districts – formulate letter to owners of old houses? (see below)

D. Demolition bylaw (Article XVII). Barbara sent to us the changes we discussed at our November meeting. Main change is the amount of time of the delay of demolition as well as the definition of reasonable efforts to find an alternative use for the building rather than demolition. Further discussion? Ms. Saint Andre forwarded the proposed by-law changes to multiple sources/committees at the Town Hall and is waiting for feedback.

Paul forwarded to Jeanne another discussion by e-mail from Wellfleet Historical Commission – Jim McCauliffe. Jeanne read the January 13th email aloud.

E. Cutler Place--Ms. Saint Andre stated this proposal was approved by the Planning Board last week. The building is being saved and they are putting an addition to it.

F. Proposed projects for 2022 (discussed in December)

- i. Revise Demo-delay bylaw; warrant article for spring town-meeting warrant – see above.
- ii. Local Historic District for Medway's oldest homes – continue exploring
 - a. Hire someone to assist?
 - b. 34 homes that were built in the 1700's. Write letter to their owners explaining we are considering establishing local historic district. Invite them to meeting.
 - c. Hold informational meeting of 1700's home owners. Perhaps at our February meeting? If enough interest, recruit some to help write rules for the district.
 - d. Contact Mass Hist Comm for help if we are able to proceed.
 - e. We are ready to draft a letter – Paul will contact Cher to begin this process.
 - f. Could invite someone from Mass Historical Commission to the meeting to answer any questions.
- iii. Contact Mass Hist Comm regarding Ide & Torey houses (Main Street). (Underground RR; grant money available?)
 - a. Paul will gather information and contacts to get this documented. Paul got a call from the federal government regarding the Ide House as it is one of the only farmhouses in the Northeast attached to a barn.
- iv. Flexible wraps on a few traffic-control boxes – finalize by our April or May meetings. (Contact Medway Cultural Council and Design Review Committee for their cooperation.) The cost of this could come out of our budget. Paul stated we want different photos for each box unless the cost is more for different photos. Research needed. Jeanne asked if we should consult Cultural Council. Morgan reported that someone from the Cultural Council stated they wanted to have a high school student paint one of the boxes – she believes it's one near the plaza at the stop light. Paul stated that, according to the police chief, we need to go through the Select Board to get this approved. Jeanne stated we need a list of the boxes that we would like to use. Jeanne will contact Medway Cultural Council.
- v. Garnsey Historic Home site
 - a. Create explanatory sign. CPA funds.
 - b. Contact Mass Hist Comm about partial excavation of foundation site.
 - c. Get quotes of cost to excavate. Keep CPC informed so we have their support.

- d. Create warrant article for town meeting approval to use CPA funds.
- vi. Create and purchase 2 informational signs for Evergreen Cemetery (CPA funds).
- vii. Evergreen Cemetery –next phase of tombstone repair and restoration
 - a. Get quote from restoration artist, Kai Nalenz (978-821-9158); abt \$25,000 (based on our prior experience.) Be sure to keep the new trustees of Evergreen informed.
 - b. Write warrant article for funding.
- viii. Oakland Cemetery –first phase of tombstone repair and restoration.
 - a. Get quote from Kai Nalenz; approx. \$25,000 (based on prior experience)
 - b. Write warrant article for funding.
 - c. Start researching burials and stones: objective is to nominate the cemetery to the National Register of Historic Places. Contact William Paille (508-533-6292) and Roy Young (Cemetery caretaker) to keep them “in the loop.”
- ix. Check flagpole light in Oakland Cemetery (needs new batteries/lamp?) Contact DPW
- x. Arrange to have portrait hanging in Town Hall meeting room restored. (CPA funds)
- xi. Replace GAR markers/flag holders and add WWI, WWII, etc. veteran grave markers.
 - a. Coordinate with Memorial Committee as they have information.
 - b. Paul stated he found these available online.
- xii. Signs for other Historic Locations. Jeanne will look up the company that manufactures these signs.

Warrant closes February 22nd for Annual Town Meeting in May. Barbara can get a placeholder on the warrant for an article requesting CPA funding for information signs at certain locations, including Evergreen, Garnsey site, and Dry Bridge site. We will have an article on the warrant requesting approval for changes to Article XVII, Demo Delay By-Law. We expect to have an article requesting \$8,500 from CPA funds for the “Jameson History of Medway” project discussed above.

Reminder: Conflict-of-Interest Law, review rules e-mailed by Jeanne

Next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 23, 2022, 7:00 at the Senior Center.

On a motion made by Paul; seconded by Gene, the Historical Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Mitchell, Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved at the HC Meeting on March 23, 2022.