

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, February 28, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Senior Center, 76 Oakland Street

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

Members absent: Gene Liscombe, Isabel Nulter, Rich Eustis

Others in attendance: Barbara Saint Andre, Director, Community and Economic Development;
Secretary, Justin Tucker

Meeting was called to order by Historical Commission co-chair Cher Hamilton at 7:11 p.m.

1. Demolition Applications to consider- There were no applications to consider as of February 26, 2024
2. **Possible discussion from members of the public:**
 - A. Realtor Paul Yorkis (discuss “pocket park” project in memory of Ishmael Coffee). Mr. Yorkis was not present. Ms. Fontecchio reported that she had invited him to this meeting. Mr. Yorkis responded that he had already sent the information to a sign company for it to be made.
 - B. Marisol Benner (owner of 195-197 Main Street, deed-restricted buildings) to discuss possible grants/funding for work on the old fire house. Ms. Johnson read an email from Ms. Benner asking the Commission if they knew anything about available grants to help with work on the old fire house. Ms. Benner did not respond to Ms. Johnson’s reply and was not present at the meeting.
 - C. Member Rich Eustis resignation. Mr. Eustis told Ms. Johnson he would resign due to other commitments.
3. Review Minutes from January 24, 2024 - ***On a motion made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Fontecchio, the Historical Commission voted 4-0-0 to approve the January 24, 2024 meeting minutes.***
4. Treasurer's Report
Ms. Fontecchio reported the Commission has \$1,033.72 remaining in the budget.
5. Report of Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Meetings
Ms. Fontecchio attended the CPC meeting in place of Mr. Russell because he was sick. The next meeting is March 4.
6. Project Updates (Old Business)

- A. Evergreen and Oakland Cemetery Stone Repair Project
Ms. Saint Andre reported the Grant agreements have been signed and they are waiting for the work to be done; then the funds can be reimbursed. Ms. Johnson is assisting in writing a post for social media (Facebook Historical Society and Historical Commission websites) to update the public on this project. Approved amount for this project: \$60,000. Cemetery owners/trustees should make the arrangements, and Mr. Russell will help if needed.

- B. Local Historic Districts
Ms. Saint Andre will send Commission members the link to the Mass. Historical Commission website which explains in detail the procedure to establish a Local Historical District. Commission members should read the information to discuss at the next meeting. Mr. Russell suggested starting with just a few houses on his updated list, perhaps those built before 1750, to shorten our starting list. Once a decision on houses to include has been reached, we should work with a consultant. We are considering “the flats” of lower Village Street area near the Timothy Partridge Ordinary as a local district.

- C. Sign Placement – (High Street School and the RR Stations)
Ms. Fontecchio and Ms. Nulter met with the library director, and Ms. Fontecchio met with the Police Chief and all agreed on placement of the signs when they are ready. Ms. Fontecchio reported that editing of the write-ups by Commission members has been done, and the signs can be ordered. Ms. Saint Andre will place the order for the signs.

7. New Business

- A. CPA Funding for next fiscal year (FY2025)
Ms. Saint Andre reported that the CPC will be meeting on Monday, March 4 and will consider supporting our request for \$4,500 from CPA funds for four additional signs in 2024. The Thayer House and Choate Park are possible sites for signs.

- B. We received a letter from Ben Haley, National Register Director, Mass. Historical Commission, regarding eligibility of Jacob Ide House and its next-door neighbor, 160 Main Street (the Mary Ide Torrey house), for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. More research is needed, and Ms. Hamilton stated the Historical Society is hopeful to have the research done by the end of the month.

- C. Indigenous Peoples Day Committee. Ms. Hamilton stated she read in her research there was talk of indigenous people having a village off of Hill Street and they may have used Winthrop Pond, which was part of Medway long ago but which is now part of Holliston. Ms. Hamilton will talk with the IPD Committee about interest in placing a sign in Medway as close as possible to the site. Ms. Johnson stated she believed the only place in Medway that could accommodate a sign would be on private property. Ms. Johnson stated perhaps joining up with the Holliston Historical Commission would be a better route.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Fontecchio at 8:36 and was approved by all.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Tucker, Secretary
(edited by Jeanne Johnson)

List of Documents Reviewed at this meeting

1. Proposed wording for historical signs – Police Station and Library sites