



TOWN OF MEDWAY
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Medway Town Hall
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Minutes

Wednesday, May 25, 2022, 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: Paul Russell, Jeanne Johnson, Gene Liscombe, Cher Hamilton. Rich Eustis

Members Absent: McKenzie Ward, Morgan Harris

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

Meeting was called to order by Historical Commission Chair, Jeanne Johnson at 7:03 PM.

Rich Eustis arrived 7:26 PM.

Demolition Applications to consider

None to consider.

Ms. Saint Andre recommended members view the Open Meeting Law Seminar. She mentioned it would be recorded and Medway Cable Access will show on their cable channel. It will be on Zoom on June 8th. This seminar will pertain to

Medway specifically.

Review Minutes of March 23 and April 27

Defer April 27th meeting until June.

On a motion made by Paul Russell, seconded by Gene Liscombe, the Historical Commission voted to approve the corrected March 23, 2022 meeting minutes.

Treasurer's report (Gene Liscombe)

No change. The budgeted amount (\$2500) will go back to the Town as the Historical Commission has not spent it.

Report of CPC meetings (Gene Liscombe)

Meeting was scheduled an hour before the Town meeting. Gene did not attend and did not get any updates.

Project updates/discussion (Old Business)

a) Evergreen Cemetery - No updates.

b) Flexible wraps featuring historical Medway scenes around traffic signal boxes (Paul)

Select Board would like HC to meet with the Cultural Council and Design Review Committee. The earliest date we can all meet is July 18th, Monday. Ms. Saint Andre stated the entire commission does not need to attend. They would like the designs in advance.

Paul does not have the designs for the 3-sided ones. Paul will email the images to Ms. Saint Andre to share with the Design Review and Cultural Committees. Ms. Saint Andre stated they will want to know the photos that are selected for the boxes. Paul stated there are roughly 8 boxes, the Historical Commission could select 3-5 and need to determine which ones. Once decided, they will need to go to the Design Review Committee with the plans. Photos, how many sides (3 or 4), and locations (show on a map), noting those that are in or near the historical district and focus on the character of that area. Paul will work on gathering this information. Ms. Saint Andre will get in touch with the Cultural Council to arrange a shared meeting. She will also mark the locations of the boxes and share that with us.

c) **Local Historic Districts – formulate letter to owners of old houses?**

Table until traffic box project is completed. They wanted to identify the homes that are still standing. Around 33 still standing. See minutes of earlier meetings for more information.

d) **Demolition bylaw changes.**

Change was approved at the Annual Town Meeting on May 9th. Town Manager Michael Boynton gave a brief explanation and there was no discussion. The oldest houses in Medway can now be protected from demolition for up to two years if they are deemed preferably preserved (following all procedures including a public hearing). As with all such articles, Ms. Saint Andre mentioned this will be reviewed by the Attorney General, which usually takes about 90 days.

e) **Funding for digitization of Jameson History of Medway, part of CPC funding article for several projects, was approved.**

Allison Potter, Assistant Town Manager, will take necessary steps to proceed with the project, using Mr. Green's proposal to solicit other proposals. They will be sent directly to companies who might be interested.

f) **Signs for Cemeteries & Garnsey Site**

- a. Paul has the quote from All Types Digital Graphics
- b. Dry Bridge / Dry Bridge Road – Place a sign to explain its significance.
- c. 2 signs for Evergreen, 2 for Oakland, 1 for Garnsey property, and 1 for Dry Bridge
- d. Paul will check to see if there is a sign at the little park across from the Police Station explaining its significance. Cher believes there is a sign there.
- e. Request funding from CPC funds for this project at fall Town Meeting.
- f. Next step is wording and possible illustrations for the signs. Get an official quote, ideally multiple quotes.

New Business

- a) **Historical Commission member terms expiring in June:** Jeanne Johnson, Gene Liscombe, Kenzie Ward. Kenzie informed Jeanne she cannot continue, so there is now a vacancy. Interested citizens should attend one of our meetings, then send a letter to the Select Board if they wish to be appointed. Jeanne and Gene will continue as members. Jeanne said to share vacancy with townspeople. Beginning in June, Cher and Jeanne will Co-Chair.
- b) Cher Hamilton volunteered to serve as HC representative to a new steering committee established by the Select Board in April 2022: Native American & Indigenous Peoples National Heritage Commemoration Day. Cher mentioned they have not met yet.

Master Plan update and discussion (Barbara Saint Andre)

Master Plan Committee held a meeting to review the various proposed strategies. Nobody was really in favor of the Dam Removal. They will have a joint meeting (Select Board and Planning Board) to determine the next phase. Final Version Late September, Early October. They would like finalized before November town meeting.

On a motion made by Rich; seconded by Paul, the Historical Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:08 PM. Next meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Mitchell, Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved at the June 22, 2022 meeting of the Historical Commission.