



TOWN OF MEDWAY
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

*Medway Town Hall
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Minutes

Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

In-person Meeting at Senior Center, 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: Jeanne Johnson, Gene Liscombe, Cher Hamilton, Morgan Harris, Paul Russell

Members Absent: Rich Eustis, McKenzie Ward

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

I. Meeting was called to order by Historical Commission Chair, Jeanne Johnson at 7:01 PM.

II. Demolition applications to consider: none as of May 24th

III. Minutes to consider – April 7, 2021 & April 28, 2021

On a motion made by Morgan, seconded by Cher, the Historical Commission unanimously voted to approve the Meeting Minutes from April 7, 2021.

On a motion made by Paul, seconded by Gene, the Historical Commission unanimously voted to approve the Meeting Minutes from April 28, 2021.

IV. Treasurer's report (Gene Liscombe)

No change. Gene receives a statement every month from the Town Accountant; our balance remains \$2,500. Barbara mentioned there is a reconciliation report at the Town Hall. Fiscal year ends on June 30th.

V. CPC Report (Gene Liscombe)

Gene mentioned CPC met on May 3rd. He stated they discussed tennis courts. There is interest in rebuilding the tennis courts at the High School. No decisions were made.

VI. Old business

A. Funding for fencing and flagpoles was approved at annual town meeting.

Funding was approved at Annual Town Meeting with no discussion. CPC recommended requesting \$12,000 in case of inflation or unexpected expenses so it will not need to go back to town meeting. Barbara asked when they will be installed. Paul stated the estimate is good through the end of June. Funds are not available until July 1st. Barbara mentioned we should let DPW know. Paul will work on scheduling the installation of the new flag poles.

B. Evergreen Cemetery.

1. Massachusetts Historical Commission will meet virtually on June 9th at 1:00 p.m. Laura Kline will present the application requesting that Evergreen Cemetery be named to the National

Register of Historic Places. This has been a long-term project for our Commission, and Barbara and Jeanne recommended we all attend this presentation. More information will be forthcoming.

2. The Town of Medway was prepared to take over responsibility for the cemetery as current trustee George Lee is retiring. However, they have found someone willing to take on the role of trustee, and the cemetery article on the recent Town Meeting Warrant was not voted on.

C. Traffic-signal box wraps.

There was further discussion of installation of flexible wraps around certain traffic-signal boxes featuring photos of historic Medway sites. The boxes can be a point of interest for pedestrians. Paul has not yet heard back from Cultural Council. The Cultural Council previously presented such a project to the Select Board and they were not interested in proceeding, possibly because CC doesn't have a budget for projects. The Board may support it if CPC funding can be used.

Paul made up a list of 7-8 boxes where people could view them, possibly just covering the front and the back as opposed to going all the way around the box. The boxes are 54 inches high and 44 inches wide. Medfield, Wrentham, Framingham, and Millis have installed such wraps on some of their boxes. Paul has many scanned historical Medway photos. Some of these photos have been enlarged and are currently displayed in the Town Hall, Shaw's Supermarket, Senior Center, and other locations.

VII. New business

A. Updates on Zoom meeting/open meeting regulations, etc.

Meetings will now be in person at the Senior Center. After the meetings, please spray/clean where you sat.

B. Updates on Master Plan, historical preservation issues.

The meeting, hosted by Jen Golden and her assistant, was attended by Paul, Barbara and Jeanne via Zoom last week and included discussion of Demolition-Delay bylaw and possibility of strengthening it. Jeanne believes 7 or 8 people attended. Medway is working on a new Master Plan. Jeanne mentioned she came across the Master Plan from 1973. One of the items within the Master Plan is historical resources. They are concerned about historical resources in every town, especially because demolition of historic buildings is happening due to pressure for new housing.

Medway currently has two historic districts with possibility of a third at "Woodsey's Corner," the intersection of Lincoln Street, High Street, Village Street. One building in the neighborhood has already been demolished after being condemned. Another burned and has been rebuilt. Many houses in this area are from the 1800's and deserve to be in a historic district.

Jeanne mentioned it is quite an undertaking to take on forming another historic district. Paul suggested you can do it as a local historic district instead of a national historic district. Homeowners are reluctant to accept this as there are more restrictions. Barbara stated that "Local Historic Districts" are still governed by certain state guidelines. Paul shared information about the town of Lincoln, which has a local historic district with homes sporadically in an area. (See attached map) The members discussed that each house would need a sign stating it's within the Historic District. This could potentially protect a large chunk of the historic homes. Jeanne would like members to research restrictions and the likelihood of homeowners keeping their homes preserved and not selling them along with their land.

Another way to protect historic homes is to buy a "historical preservation restriction" - where owners agree to not alter the outside appearance. Towns need funds in order to carry out such a program. Town may be able to get assistance. Owners of houses with restrictions must go to the Commission before making any alterations. We have one Deed-restricted property--the old library and Torrent fire house, on Main Street in the Rabbit Hill Historic District. Whoever buys

the house must absorb the restrictions. Jeanne stated it would be beneficial to have a committee to keep an eye on these properties to ensure they are maintained.

There was discussion of extending the amount of time a delay-of-demolition could be imposed on a historic building. For example, anything built prior to the 1800's might have a delay of 18 months instead of the current 12 months. Barbara stated she could research bylaws if the commission was interested.

Barbara stated it may be beneficial to reach out to homeowners who are interested in preserving their homes. The first step is to research the requirements for establishing a Local Historic District. Either a neighborhood or individual such as the Town of Lincoln. Jeanne suggested bringing the information found to the next meeting.

VII. Other discussion?

Jeanne mentioned keeping the meetings on the 4th Wednesday of every month. Will discuss later.

On a motion made by Paul; seconded by Gene, the Historical Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:55 PM.



Next meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2021, at 7:00 p.m at the Senior Center.

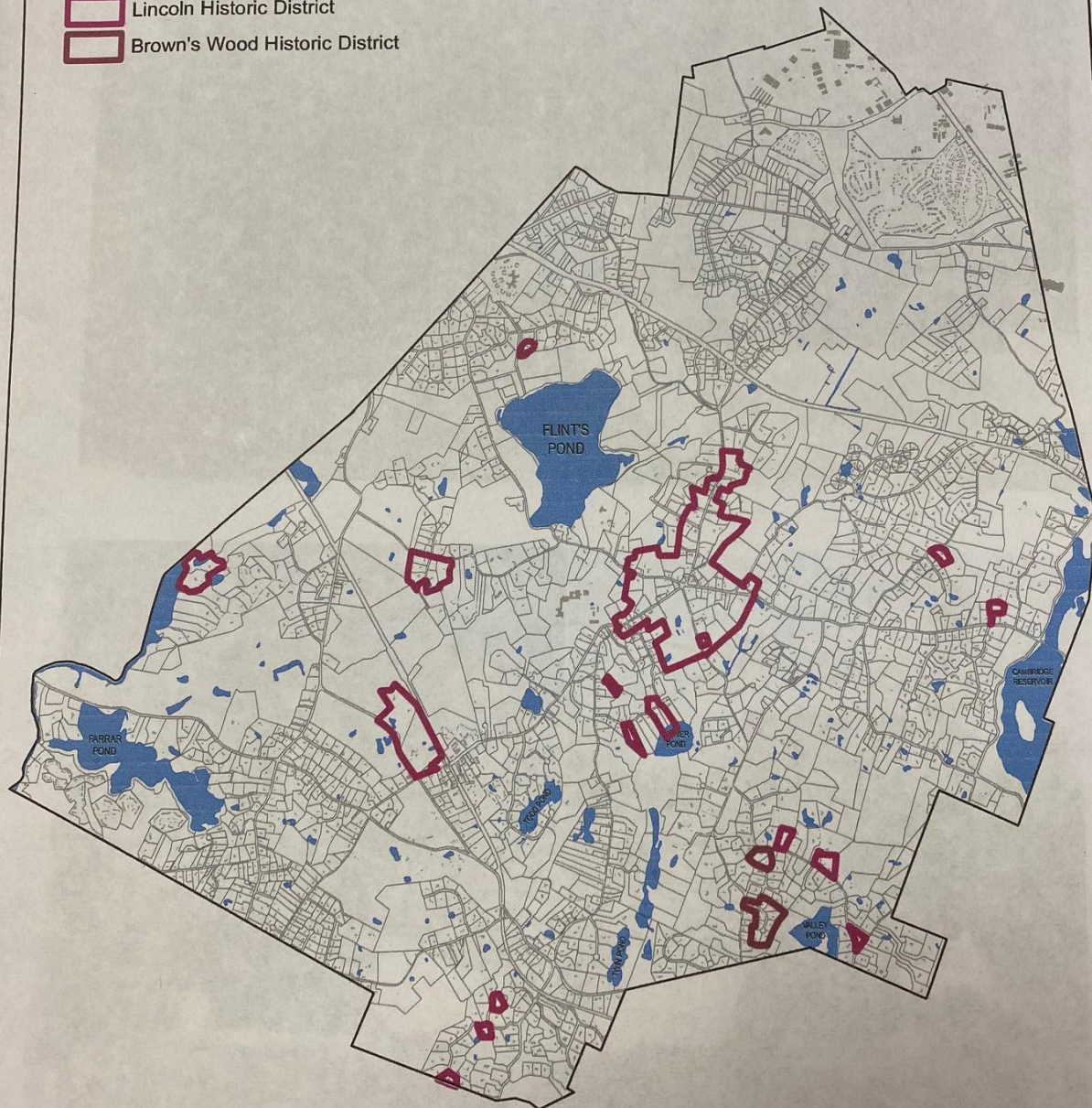
Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Mitchell, Recording Secretary

Town of Lincoln Historic Districts

Legend

-  Lincoln Historic District
-  Brown's Wood Historic District



Traffic signal boxes

