



TOWN OF MEDWAY
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Medway Town Hall
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Minutes

Wednesday, August 24, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
In-person Meeting at Sanford Hall

*Commission
Members*

Jeanne Johnson,
Chair

Paul Russell, Vice
Chair

Eugene Liscombe,
Treasurer,
Representative to
Community
Preservation
Committee

Cher Hamilton,
Member

Morgan Harris,
Member

Rich Eustis,
Member

Isabel Nulter,
Member

The reason for meeting at Sanford Hall was to broadcast to the Town of Medway the historic pictures being considered for placement on 6 or 8 traffic-signal boxes. Sanford Hall was tied up until almost 8 p.m. and agenda items were taken out of order for this reason.

Members in Attendance: Jeanne Johnson, Gene Liscombe, Cher Hamilton, Isabel Nulter, Paul Russell, Morgan Harris, Rich Eustis. All members were present.

Others Present: Barbara Saint Andre, Director of Community and Economic Development; Katherine Mitchell, Recording Secretary (Katie's last night with us); Annmarie Fonteccio

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

Demolition Applications to consider -- None to consider.

Review Minutes of June 22nd & July 27th

On a motion made by Cher Hamilton, seconded by Morgan Harris, the Historical Commission voted to approve the June 22, 2022 meeting minutes with the correction of Isabel's name.

On a motion made by Cher Hamilton, seconded by Gene Liscombe, the Historical Commission voted to approve the July 27, 2022 meeting minutes.

Treasurer's report (Gene Liscombe)--No change. \$2,500 for new fiscal 2023.

Report of CPC meetings (Gene Liscombe) --No change

Project updates/discussion (Old Business)

- a) **Evergreen Cemetery** – No updates at this time.
- b) **Local Historic District** – continue to table this proposed project.
- c) **Project to digitize** Jameson History of Medway book proposed by Mr. Almont Green is still on hold. See July minutes.
- d) **Signs** for cemeteries, Garnsey house foundation, Drybridge Crossing. No change since our July meeting. Jeanne shared photos she took of the Charles River Bank location, which is where the old dry bridge once was.
- e) Consider proposed amendments to Building **Demolition Bylaw** and vote on whether to request that it be added to November Town Meeting warrant. Ms. Saint Andre sent the proposed changes to HC members by email. Changes include: adding the definition of the word structure. The word

STRUCTURE has been substituted for the word BUILDING each time it appears in the bylaw. The purpose of this is to try to protect structures such as dams and bridges from future demolition plans that may arise. The dam at Sanford Mill is considered a historic structure in Medway's history.

On a motion made by Paul Russell, seconded by Rich Eustis, the Medway Historical Commission voted to approve the amendments to Article 17, Medway General By Laws that have been noted above, and to request the Select Board place this Amendment as an article on the Fall Town Meeting Warrant in November.

New Business

A. **Isabel** is officially a member of this Commission, having been appointed by the Select Board and sworn in yesterday. Morgan will soon send a letter of resignation; this is her last meeting. This will create a vacancy. Jeanne has heard of one person being interested. Please inform Barbara or Jeanne if you know someone that may be interested in being appointed.

B. Cher Hamilton, reported on meetings of **Native American & Indigenous Peoples** National Heritage Commemoration Day Steering Committee. They are planning an event to celebrate this heritage to take place on October 8th from 12 noon until 4, concentrating on history and education. Cher is pulling information together, and HC members offered suggestions to her. There will be crafts for children, a speaker; it will be a small event at Choate Park. They are hoping to have a slide show of relevant historical photos. Eventually the hope is to put up signs similar to our Historic District signs, which would include a QR code for information on particular sites – for example, the approximate site of the house of Ishmael Coffee, the first person of color in Medway.

Jeanne mentioned there used to be a camp for children on Summer Street, which is now a Catholic community. Gene Liscombe remembered it was called Breezy Meadows Camp, and there were 5 weeks of camping for girls, and 5 for boys. It may have been the site of a native American community. The Historical Society may have information on this. The Historical Society has a 100-page book on the camp written by a Holliston woman. Grace Hoag or Priscilla Howker once had information on this. The Holliston Historical Society or Commission may have more information. Rich mentioned the property probably lies in both Medway and Holliston. Paul shared another location close to Holliston that may have been a native American settlement.

C. Ms. Saint Andre reminded members to complete the **Conflict-of-Interest Training** that is online and is due now.

D. Ms. Saint Andre noted that the **Master Plan** Committee met Monday night. The plan will soon be finalized and sent to Planning Board for approval. Review the most recent plan and strategies on the Town website. If you have any comments, send to Barbara or Susan Affleck-Childs and they can forward to the MP Committee. Last Deadline is September 7th to submit any comments. Last Master Plan meeting is September 27th. This whole procedure was begun in March of 2021.

E. Jeanne mentioned the Commission received a letter from the Massachusetts Historical Commission senior archaeologist regarding the **Medway Grid Energy Storage** project. Their research showed nothing of archeological relevance at the proposed storage site.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL BOX WRAPS (This is the discussion to be broadcast.) 7:59 p.m.

Paul stated that some boxes are against the woods so one side can't be seen. Rich mentioned that their committee is meeting again tomorrow night.

Cable Access began 7:59. Jeanne provided an introduction of the project as well as the members of the commission. Slideshow included electrical box dimensions as well as the vision of the project. Paul

mentioned some of the photos have been adjusted to be clearer. Mixture of photos from the 60's as well as older photos. Rich suggested taking note of the photos that catch someone's eye or pause briefly.

Rich questioned if we are looking for photos for the specific box location. What is the consensus on any photos in town or do we want the photos to attach to the location? They like the collage idea with a similar theme. They shouldn't be attached to the box location as that would exclude most of the town's historic sites and photos.

Cher likes the idea of collaging them with similar topics – put information on the back to provide a background on the photos when it's available.

All agreed that the Jacob Ide House should have its own box and should include photos of both outside & inside. There are few farmhouses like this one still standing where the barn is attached to the house.

Rich suggested determining a theme for each box, gathering about 10 photos for that theme, then selecting about six photos for the collage or grouping on the box.

Themes chosen by HC members (will have to be narrowed down)

Transportation
Streets/Intersections with buildings
Agricultural
Schools
Factories

People / Celebration
Fire / Police
Dams / Water
Jacob Ide House

On a motion made by Rich, seconded by Paul, the Historical Commission voted unanimously to purchase 7 USB flash drives to store photographs for this project for each member to decide which photos to use.

Rich mentioned they are meeting tomorrow night and Rich will provide updates.

On a motion made by Gene; seconded by Cher, the Historical Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:47 PM. Next meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Mitchell, Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved at the September 28, 2022 meeting of the Historical Commission.