



Medway Historical Commission Minutes

Wednesday, April 3, 2019, 7:30 p.m.
Medway Senior Center, 76 Oakland Street

Ms. Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. Members present were Gene Liscomb, Jeanne Johnson, Bruce Hamblin, Paul Russell
Guests attending were Jim Washek and his son, Tom, owners of the house at 32 Milford Street.

Demolition Applications

1. 32 Milford Street was considered. Ms. Johnson explained that our charge is to protect Medway's history to the extent it is possible and reasonable. Mr. Washek explained their plan to demolish the house and build a somewhat larger one further back from the road. Mr. Washek is presently repairing the large garage behind the house. The neighborhood in which the house is located has already changed drastically from its early days in the 1800's up to the mid-1900's. Located nearby are Cumberland Farms Gas Station and Convenience Store, Dunkin's, 45 Restaurant, Medway Garden Center, and the Fire Station. Large, newer houses are now located on either side of it. Although the house is over one hundred years old, it is not in a historic district, is not architecturally unique for its period, it is in need of repairs, and it has been vacant for some time. Mr. Liscombe moved that it is not historically significant to Medway's history. Mr. Hamblin seconded the motion, and all approved. A letter will be sent to that effect to the owners and the building commissioner. We thanked the Washeks for coming to this meeting.

2. Continuation of the March 20th Public Hearing on the application to demolish the barn at 260 Village Street was opened at 7:45 p.m. No one was present to speak about the barn. It is over one hundred years old, it contributes to the streetscape as representative of Medway's old heritage as a farming community and its loss would be noticeable. Additionally, it may contain old wood that could be recycled. We understand it is in poor condition and we would like to learn from the owners if they have contacted firms that recycle old wood.

Mr. Russell moved that the barn is preferably preserved. Mr. Hamblin seconded, and all approved the motion. As a result, a twelve-month delay-of-demolition is imposed on the barn. Ms. Johnson will send a letter to that effect to the owners and the building commissioner.

Mr. Russell moved that the Public Hearing be closed at 7:50 p.m. Mr. Hamblin seconded the motion, and all agreed.

3. 21 High Street Barn. No one was present to discuss this property, which had a delay of demolition imposed in January. If the owners give the Historical Commission a letter stating they have consulted someone who recycles or preserves old wood, we may vote to lift the delay.

Consider minutes of March 20th meeting— Corrections were made to the minutes. Mr. Russell moved for acceptance, Mr. Hamblin seconded, and all approved.

Treasurer's report Mr. Liscombe reported no change from last month.

CPC report (Gene Liscombe) They met Monday, April 1. Ann Sherry, Affordable Housing Trust, requested \$25,000 from CPA funds to be put in trust, so their project may proceed without waiting for funding approval until the next Town Meeting. CPC members were not sure that is a proper use of funds but they agreed to set aside \$10,000 for emergency expenses.

They discussed the Annual Meeting Omnibus Article, which contains funding for all town budgets. Historical, Open Space, and Affordable Housing will each get \$103,000 this year. Historical will have to use \$20,000 of its funds for the Historic Structures Report being done on the Ide House; Affordable Housing will have \$10,000 set aside as noted above. Open Space will keep all of their funding.

CPC has a new secretary, Wendy Harrington.

Reports of ongoing projects

1. Evergreen Cemetery—grant received for consultant; Paul provided copies of the letter he received awarding the grant.

2. House plaques-no report

3. Town Hall model—Matt Williston still wants to do this. We discussed; the feeling is growing that this project may be too expensive for the benefit it would provide. Paul wants to investigate the possibility of doing a 3-D print of the old town hall. He will check the library and the high school, where such printers are available.

4. Digitizing Historic Survey. Paul has synchronized the table of contents with page numbers of Volume I and is working on doing the same for Volume II.

5. Paul spoke with Richard Parrella (Veterans' Council of Medway) about installing inscribed cement benches at the cemeteries as the HC has \$2,700 that can be used for that purpose. Mr. Parrella will talk to his council about this project.

2018 Annual Report has been submitted to Sandy Johnston, Selectmen's Office.

Adjourn

Jeanne Johnson, Chairman