



Medway Historical Commission Minutes

Wednesday, August 21, 2019, 7:30 p.m.
Medway Senior Center, 76 Oakland Street

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Attending were Gene Liscombe, Jeanne Johnson, Bruce Hamblin, Paul Russell, Cher Hamilton and Kathy Hickey. Member Kenzie Ward was absent.

Guests: Barbara Saint Andre and Matt Hayes; Patrick Larkin and Cameron Bagherpour

I. Demolition Applications and Property

A. 260 Village Street barn: no one was present to discuss the barn. The demolition delay imposed last April remains in effect.

B. 81 Lovering Street (The old Wilson Farm). An application to demolish the barns was filed on July 19 by the Larkins. Three HC members (Gene Liscombe, Cher Hamilton, Jeanne Johnson) accepted the invitation to visit the site on July 26. Mr. Larkin explained the oldest part of the barn complex was built in the late 1800's. Additions were made in the 1950's and 1970's for milking stalls, hay storage, etc. His company plans to keep the farmhouse as is, parcel it off, and sell it. They then plan to build three or four houses on the property once the barns are gone. He has contacted the Jarmak Corporation from Oxford, Mass., which specializes in reclaiming old wood and beams. They are interested in taking some of the old wood in the barn. Mr. Larkin had said he would send an e-mail verifying this but as of tonight neither the HC nor Barbara Saint Andre has received it. He said he will resend it. There was extended discussion among HC members and questions for Mr. Larkin. Cher moved that the barns are historically significant to the town of Medway due to their age and that they are among the last reminders of the farming community that Medway once was. Kathy seconded the motion. More discussion followed. Ms. Saint Andre quoted from Article 17 of Medway Bylaws stating criteria for declaring a property historically significant.

Jeanne noted that, although a significant reminder of Medway's history as a farming village, the barns are not unique in style or architecture; no person important to Medway's history lived there; the property is not in one of Medway's Historic Districts; and although the original barn is very old, the others are not over 75 years old.

Jeanne called for a vote on the motion on the floor. There was one vote in favor of the barns being declared historically significant to the town, and five votes against the motion. The barns are not historically significant. Jeanne will send a notice to that effect to the building commissioner and to Mr. Larkin.

II. Presentation by Matt Hayes, Chairman of the Oak Grove Zoning Task Force. The Task Force is presenting their proposal to all Town Boards and Committees in hopes of gaining support for this Urban Renewal Plan. This area consists of about 82 acres, including the so-called "bottle-cap lots" (20'x80' plots of land awarded to people many years ago by the Cliquot Bottling Company) and additional parcels along Trotter Drive. The proposal included maps, descriptions, renderings, spreadsheets, and projections. Each of us was given a 14-page report of the proposal. There was a question and answer discussion afterward. Matt asked for letters of support. The proposal will be on the warrant for the Fall Town Meeting.

III. Treasurer's report --Gene Liscombe reported no change since his last report

IV. CPC report--Gene Liscombe reported that they have not met this summer.

V. Reports of ongoing projects

A. Memorial Benches for the cemeteries: Paul noted that he obtained from the town a purchase order for three benches but they haven't been ordered yet. He is still waiting for more input from the Memorial Committee as they seem to want something different from what we planned, which would cost more money. We have a certain amount of money available for this project and our members stated that we cannot spend more than that amount. If the Memorial Committee wants to purchase something different, they will need to raise more funds to make the purchase.

B. Evergreen Cemetery— Paul Russell and Barbara Saint Andre reported on the progress of fulfillment of requirements for receiving the funds promised by the grant we were awarded. Barbara received many submissions in response to our RFQ, which she passed on to Paul and Jeanne. The field was narrowed to three:

Public Archeology Lab, \$10,550

Kathleen Kelly Broomer, \$12,000

Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, \$13,000

We are required to hire the lowest bidder if they meet the requirements for the project and have good references. Barbara contacted references for low-bidder PAL and received three responses, all of them giving excellent reviews and stating they would gladly use PAL for future projects.

Chairman Johnson moved that we award the contract to PAL for the Evergreen Cemetery National Registry of Historic Places nomination application, subject to the approval of MHC (Massachusetts Historical Commission). Vice-Chairman Paul Russell seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

Barbara noted that we received the contract with MHC stating that we accept the grant they awarded, and Town Administrator Michael Boynton signed it today. After MHC returns a copy of it which they have also signed, the HC ~~we~~ will wait for notice from MHC that they approve of our contracting with PAL to perform the work. At that point, we can sign a contract with PAL to begin work on the cemetery nomination.

Because it was so late, Jeanne suggested that discussion of any other business be deferred to our Sept. 4 meeting.

Adjourn at 9:30. Bruce moved for adjournment, Paul seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Our next meeting is scheduled for September 4th at the Senior Center.

Jeanne Johnson, Chairman

These minutes prepared by Jeanne Johnson.