



TOWN OF MEDWAY
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

*Medway Town Hall
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Minutes

*Commission
Members*

Wednesday, February 5, 2020, 7:30 p.m.
Medway Senior Center, 76 Oakland St.

*Jeanne Johnson,
Chair*

Members in Attendance: Jeanne Johnson, Cher Hamilton, Gene Liscombe, Paul Russell, Bruce Hamblin

*Paul Russell, Vice
Chair*

Members Absent: McKenzie Ward, Kathleen Hickey

*Eugene Liscombe,
Treasurer,
Representative to
Community
Preservation
Committee*

Citizens: Fred Sibley

*Bruce Hamblin,
Member*

Meeting was called to order by Historical Commission Chair, Jeanne Johnson at 7:32PM.

Approval of Minutes: Defer November 6th and January 15th minutes until the next meeting.

*Cher Hamilton,
Member*

Demo Applications and Property Questions: None as of January 31st.

*Kathleen Hickey,
Member*

Treasurer's Report: Gene reported \$200 – Miscellaneous Expense, \$3,500 Historical Signage. No changes.

*McKenzie Ward,
Member*

CPC Report: Gene reported CPC met on Monday night. The committee went over distributions and they will be working with various committees on their

outstanding balances.

- \$2,600 remaining for document preservation. Gene stated the committee questioned if the Historical Commission would be using these funds or questioned whether it should go back to general fund?
- \$3,500 remaining for markers and plaques. Paul brought paperwork to Town Hall to be paid. Jeanne stated she would speak to Town Accountant to verify the benches have been paid.
- State CPC distributions- Medway got another \$115,459. Next year they are expected to receive \$163,164.
- The committee reviewed their meeting schedule for the year and discussed the Annual Public Hearing scheduled for March 2nd at the High School Library.
- Preliminary structural review of Ide House- various structural problems. Cost more to repair than originally projected.
- Move to allow Town Admin. to approve bills
- Annual dues for community CPA's are \$2,875- Projects need to be cleared by CPA

Garnsey Foundation – Dog Park Fence

Project done many years ago as Eagle Scout project; fence around the Garnsey house foundation (oldest house in Medway) was to protect and separate it from the newly established dog park. The fence is now falling apart and needs to be replaced. Fred Sibley discussed this with us on January 15. Photos were

dropped off from a representative (Aimee Brown) of the Dog Park Committee. They would like to be involved in any decisions.

Fred had further ideas after visiting the location today. He suggested that reworking the existing fence could make the Garnsey foundation more accessible to visitors and pointed out that a fence is not needed on the street side near the foundation. Because the remaining stones don't clearly delineate the house configuration, a base map and some limited excavation, perhaps 12 inches down, would be appropriate. He also suggested placing a plaque with the history of the site nearby. (Fred suggested the Audibon Society has contacts for appropriate outdoor signage.) DPW/ Environmental Services / Dave D'Amico / Steve may assist with fence. We may need to engage a fence company to complete the project, picnic table, benches, plaque, grass, walkway, etc. Jeanne questioned when the house came down? Members were unsure. Jeanne wondered if they could find photos of the house before it was taken down.

Fred stated Fran Hutton-Lee (Information Services) and Dave D'Amico work with maps. They could potentially create a base map of the area showing ground features from aerial photograph. ~~Features for~~ The base map could help us decide on placement of reconfigured fencing, and clarify to various vendors the scope of the project. Some of the current fencing may be reusable. This project may possibly be ready to proceed in the fall.

Jeanne questioned if we need permission to go ahead with beginning the project. Fred suggested we speak to whomever oversees dog park to work together (Amiee Brown). Fred believes the shed and the storage lean-to on the property are theirs. All agree the lean-to with its collection of shovels and other tools should be removed if the caretakers of the dog park don't really need it. The question of parking was raised, and Fred said it is adequate.

Updates on ongoing projects

Facebook page has 166 members (as of Feb. 4, 2020)

Evergreen Cemetery Update

On Jan. 23 several people met at the cemetery, then met with Barbara Saint Andre at Town Hall.

Gretchen Pineo, PAL

Laura Kline, PAL

Ben Hayes, MASS. Historical Commission

Paul Russell, Vice Chair of Medway HC

Jeanne Johnson, Chair, Medway HC

Summary: Phase one (project research) is complete. Barbara Saint Andre has paid PAL for their time on this project. Ben wanted to see the cemetery and certain headstones to get a feel for the project. Phase two will proceed.

List of significant Medway buildings that should have plaques.

Cher is preparing a letter to be sent to owners. Kathy and Bruce will refine list and significance

Current list included in November minutes:

Town Hall

Anderson School

High Street School

Fire Station & Cole Library

Sanford Mill (plaque inside)

Community Church

Episcopal Church

Middle School

Old Parrish House
Parsonage
Old Inn
Ide House (check condition of present sign, Cher stated it is OK)
Old School on School Street (School Street School)
Site of old school moved to North Street (there is a sign on it)
Synagogue
Site of Coffey House (Paul stated this was investigated a few years ago)
Torrey House
Methodist Episcopal Church (now Charles River Lodge)
Site of Baptist church at the corner
Medway Village Church
Legion on Cutler Street (previously a school)
Old Dry Bridge (Main Street, where Charles River Bank is now)

Highschool students' future involvement: No updates.

Digitizing Photos in HC files located in Town-Hall basement file cabinets: **Tim Rice:** Cher stated he has picked up at least one batch.

Thank you to Paul Russell and his submission of the 1998 Historical Survey of Medway to Stefany Ohannesian and Sandy Johnston at the Town Hall, the survey is now online at the Town's website in the Historical Commission's section.

https://www.townofmedway.org/.../uploa.../rabbit_hill_part_1.pdf

https://www.townofmedway.org/.../uploa.../rabbit_hill_part_2.pdf

https://www.townofmedway.org/.../village_historic_district_pa...

https://www.townofmedway.org/.../pages_from_village_historic_...

https://www.townofmedway.org/.../village_historic_district_pa...

Other items for discussion:

The warrant for the May 11 Annual Town Meeting is open. We have no articles at this time.
Annual Report – Town Hall has notified Jeanne it is due. Jeanne is working on it.
One-year delay of demolition expired this week on 21 High Street. Jeanne will notify them.
Cher learned that the barn at 81 Lovering was dismantled and moved to NH.

Aside: On Jan. 20 or 21, Jeanne received a phone call from Gregory Stahl. Mr. Stahl works with businesses in Woburn and Roxbury and is a member of the Wrentham Historical Commission. The Coyle Auction Gallery called him saying they have an estate sale coming up that includes glass slides that may be of interest to historical societies in Franklin, Medway, and Wrentham. Mr. Stahl had no information about the slides other than they were done by an amateur and haven't been seen by anyone he knows of. The owner apparently was affiliated with Wrentham State School. Wrentham's Historical Society disbanded and their artifacts and "stuff" were turned over to the Wrentham Historical Commission and are currently located in the Wrentham Museum. He wondered if Medway and

Franklin might be interested in getting together to bid on the slides even though we don't know what is on them.

In a motion made by Gene Liscombe; seconded by Cher Hamilton, the Historical Commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:51 PM.

Next meeting March 4, Senior Center, 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine Mitchell, Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved with a correction at our meeting on March 4, 2020.