



Medway Historical Commission Minutes
Wednesday January 15, 2020 7:30 p.m.
Medway Senior Center

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

Members Absent:, McKenzie Ward

Citizens: Fred Sibley

Meeting was called to order by Historical Commission Chair, Jeanne Johnson at 7:38 PM

Demolition Applications and Property Questions: None scheduled.

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

December 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes- In a motion made by Paul Russell; seconded by Kathy Hickey, the Historical Commission unanimously voted to approve December 4, 2019 Minutes.

Garnsey Foundation / Dog Park Discussion

Amie Brown; Citizen in Medway involved in Dog Park, dropped off photos of foundation of first home in Medway in the Dog Park.

Fred shared his vision of how he would like to protect the Garnsey house foundation. Fred stated if people want to visit the foundation, they must go through the dog park. He suggested re-excavating and have a fence to mark and protect foundation. Jeanne questioned the building on the property. Fred and Paul stated it was being used as a tool shed. Jeanne thought the shed's purpose was to hold information about the Garnsey house.

Define the area, conduct an appraisal, put in a plaque, use Community Preservation Funds. Grace Hoag, retired member of the Historical Commission, explained a lot of excavation was done there years ago and there is a whole drawer full of artifacts at the museum. Cher spoke to Sheila at the Historical Society regarding the discovered artifacts which included a small box of glass and some other small remnants. Jeanne mentioned this potentially could be a good project for them with experienced direction. Bruce recommended reaching out to State Department of Education.

Fred recommended checking with town regarding insurance and liability. Believes Board of Selection approved filling around foundation years ago. He also stated the Committee could work with the DPW for wood chips and chain link fence, specifically, Steve Carew, Operations Manager Environmental Services and Dave (his boss).

Treasurers Report: Paul picked up report. Gene reviewed- No change.

CPC Report: Gene did not make it to CPC meeting this month.

Facebook Page – 161 members (January 14, 2020)

Updates on ongoing projects:

Evergreen Cemetery Update

Next week: Mass Historical, PAL, and Barbara St Andre meeting at Evergreen. Walk the cemetery and go back to Town Hall to discuss Phase 1.

Payment to PAL for Phase 1 work – Grant will pay for ½ of work. Project came in under budget. Grant will be slightly less. Barbara St Andre is taking care of paperwork for this.

Historical plaques for important town buildings

Kathy is looking for more input and guidance. Jeanne suggested starting with the list we have.

Cottage Street- Old Methodist Church. Bell at the High School? Bell needs work. Original bell from School Street School. High Street School – Now the Library. Town Hall. Middle School – Used to be High School. Cole Library & Firehouse. (Only public buildings)

Jeanne questioned if this Commission should try to get funding for signs for the private buildings if the owner would like a sign. Kathy suggested doing some research and speaking to owners. Cher recommended sending a letter to the owners, such as “We are recommending your property for one of these signs because of the home’s history....” Jeanne asked Cher to draft a letter, so we have the form letter to send to the owners.

Cher mentioned the Historical Society will be launching a program this winter to assist residents on how to research property.

Message from Allison questioning if the Committee wanted a placeholder article on the Town Meeting warrant. Funds will be needed for the stonework at Evergreen. \$15,000 for headstone work at Oakland and Evergreen Cemeteries. Paul will discuss with Kai for estimate. Also need tie for plaques - Around \$400-\$500.

- A. Digitizing photographs in Historical Commission files in Town-Hall Basement file cabinets. Cher spoke with Tim Rice today. He is going to begin pulling files.
- B. Digitizing two National Historic Register books, The Rabbit Hill Historic District and The Medway Village Historic District.
 - a. The two books should be on the Town site very shortly.
 - b. Jeanne suggested giving HC members a flash drive of the two books, including issuing new members of the Commission when they are appointed.

In a motion made by Bruce Hamblin; seconded by Kathy Hickey, the Historical Commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:44 pm.

Next meeting- February 5th, 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Mitchell, Recording Secretary

These minutes were accepted at meeting on March 4, 2020.