

Medway Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes
Medway Senior Center, 76 Oakland Street, Medway, MA
Wednesday, March 20, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Kathy Hickey

Others in attendance: Barbara Saint Andre, Wendy Harrington-Recording Secretary

Ms. Johnson called the meeting to order 7:32pm

Ms. Johnson introduced McKenzie Ward, MHS student interested in Medway History and McKenzie possibly becoming a member of the Medway Historical Commission.

Public Hearing opened March 20, 2019 at 7:34pm by Jeanne Johnson.

Property: Barn located at 260 Village Street, Medway.

Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Parr

The Parr's would like to demolish the barn to build a garage. Their son Fenwick Parr was present to discuss with the Commission.

Ms. Johnson began to review the appropriate questions below.

The following questions are reviewed to help determine if a property is preferably preserved:

1. Is it the current owner who is applying for a permit to demolish?
2. Is the house over 100 years old?
3. Has the historic integrity of the house been preserved?
4. Is the house located in one of Medway's historic districts?
5. Is it listed on the Historic Survey prepared in 1996-1998 by Consultant Claire Dempsey and the Medway Historical Commission?
6. Is it uniquely representative in design or architecture of the period in which it was built? Does it have distinct features from that period? Does it stand out from other homes in the area because of these features?
7. Will the loss of this house negatively impact the streetscape?
8. Did a person important in Medway's history ever reside in the house?
9. Is there evidence that this house is preferably preserved? If so, a public hearing must be scheduled in order for neighbors and interested parties to be informed and have input.

Fenwick Parr talked about the property that was purchased by his parents in 2009/2010. The home has been completely renovated and they have tried to make it look as it originally did when built in the 1800's. He talked of the barn and he believes a lot of the support beams are rotted but the other wood is OK and the family would like to give that wood away. He believes the floor is rotted and unsafe.

The Parrs do not live on the property; it is currently leased, and they are concerned for the safety of those that reside there or others on the property and the liability of someone getting hurt. Fenwick is unsure of the foundation and noted decades of neglect.

There was discussion on locating companies that purchase old growth wood that can be used for repurposing. There were other residents in attendance that provided contact information for companies that purchase these types of materials.

Ms. Johnson spoke to her post on the Historical Commission Facebook page. She read her post and the comments from residents regarding this property. Ms. Johnson also noted that this barn could be historically significant because it may have old-growth heartwood in it. She suggested Fenwick have his parents reach out to the contacts provided to gather more information on preserving and recycling this wood if it is present.

Barbara Saint Andre reviewed the procedures for Public Hearings. She explained the hearing must open within 45 days. Once the hearing is closed the Commission must notify the applicant within 7 days of their decision. The Public Hearing may be kept open for more fact finding.

On a motion made by Mr. Russell and seconded by Mr. Hamblin, the Medway Historical Commission unanimously voted to continue the Public Hearing until 4/3/19. Ms. Saint Andre offered a friendly amendment to include the Public Hearing is continued until 4/3/2019 at 7:30pm at the Senior Center, Medway. At that time a decision will be made on whether the building is preferably preserved or not. Demolition could be delayed for up to a year.

Meeting Minutes

On a motion made by Mr. Liscomb and seconded by Mr. Russell, the Medway Historical Commission unanimously voted to approve the February 6, 2019 Minutes.

On a motion made by Ms. Hamilton and seconded by Mr. Liscomb, the Medway Historical Commission unanimously voted to approve the February 19, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes.

Demolition discussion 21 High Street

Michael and Patrick Larkin were present tonight. They found a company (Popularis Construction, Inc., Bellingham, 508-243-2435) to examine the barn and learned that most of the barn's construction is common millwork, not historical old heartwood as was suggested; the floor boards may potentially be useful. Mr. Larkin asked if they find someone who is willing to take the wood, what is the next step? Ms. Johnson explained that if the HC receives documentation from a person/company that does deconstruction and has examined the barn at 21 High Street, the HC may vote to lift the demolition delay from the barn. Mr. Larkin will forward the contact information for Popularis Construction 508-243-2435 for future reference for the Historical Commission.

Wayne Podzka, a resident was present with his son who is a Boy scout and who is doing a project on Medway. He will send contact information for a friend of his who owns a reclaimed wood business, to Ms. Johnson.

Note: Here is the contact information:

(Jarmak Corporation | 12 Pembroke St., Chelsea, MA 02150

JARMAKWOOD.COM 617-548-1829 CHELTRADER@AOL.COM

Steve Maffeo, 76 Lovering Street, Medway, Son-in-law of Paul and Lenore Wilson, 81 Lovering Street, oversees the Estate of Lenore Wilson's farm, and he was present to discuss the property, the procedures he will need to work through and questions on permitting. The property is on the market, has interested parties, and may be sold soon. Commission members explained the process if the property is historically significant. Ms. Johnson suggested an evaluation on the historical significance of the property be obtained and submitted to the Commission for review. It was explained if the buyer would like to

demolish the house or other buildings, the buyer (new owner) would apply for the permits to do so, not the seller.

Treasurer's report – There was no change from last month.

CPC report – Mr. Liscombe attended the March 4th CPC Annual Public Hearing. There were no residents in attendance, and he explained that Bridget Grazino, Conservation Agent, was in attendance to discuss a request for \$6,500 from CPC funds to hire the Conway School of Landscape Design to do one of three potential projects, one of which is on the meadow on Adams Street. The students at Conway School participate in a work study program and were hired by Medway for a similar-scale project in the past.

Project updates:

Evergreen Cemetery: Mr. Russell was notified by letter that Medway Historical Commission has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$6,500 from the Massachusetts Historical Commission to help with the project to complete the application process of getting Evergreen Cemetery nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Ms. Saint Andre will coordinate efforts for next steps with the state.

House Plaques-Ms. Hamilton is looking for a vinyl supplier for the art work. It's a slow process Ms. Hamilton explained that home owners would need to purchase their plaque after the Commission selects a design and a supplier and confirms the date and significance of each home. The current Commission is not aware of where the old plaques currently on some of Medway's historic houses came from, who organized that effort, etc. The town seal will be placed on the plaques.

Mr. Podzka, being an owner of an 1870's home, asked if having a plaque would automatically register a home as a historic house. Ms. Johnson explained it would not. Mr. Postca said residents are afraid they may not be allowed to do anything they would want to the home. Mr. Russell explained even if on the historic register you can do whatever you want to a home if you don't use federal money to do it.

The house plaque project is meant to break even. It shouldn't cost the town money and no additional money should be sought. Ms. Saint Andre will investigate who would set the fee. Ms. Johnson felt the cost of the sign and/or the cost of researching the property should be included. If the Historical Society were to take over this project, they could certainly use it as a fund raiser.

Ms. Hamilton explained the sizing of the plaques with the logo will need to be considered. The town seal could look like a blob, and there may not be room for house name, date and seal. Ms. Saint Andre explained that the seal makes it look official, and it's not really significant that it be readable from a distance.

Original Town Hall Model. Matt Williston is still interested and sent a list of prices in the last month, approximately \$5,000.

Proposal to nominate IDE House and TORREY House to National Register.

Mr. Russell and Mr. Liscombe reported that the CPC is not convinced that taking this step is advisable at this time, fearing the town would be limited in what could be done to the property. (They need to be reassured that this would be a GOOD thing; there are no restrictions unless federal funds are used.) They seem unsure of how the house will be used at this time. Ms. Hamilton said the Historical Society anticipates taking over the house in the fall, and the town has plans for making it ADA accessible. Ms. Johnson suggested holding off on National Register attempts at this time.

The Town hired the same company to perform a Historic Structures Report on the IDE House that did a similar report years ago on the Thayer House, using CPA funds. This will help determine what can be done with the house, and an informational meeting will be held following receipt of this report.

New Business. 2018 Annual Report submission deadline was March 3rd. Ms. Johnson is nearly finished with the report. Ms. Saint Andre advised that Sandy Johnston is still taking reports and suggested Ms. Johnson reach out to her for absolute deadline.

On a Motion made by Mr. Russell and seconded by Mr. Hamblin, the Medway Historical Commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Harrington
Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved on April 3, 2019.