



TOWN OF MEDWAY
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Medway Town Hall
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Minutes

Wednesday, November 4, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Zoom

*Commission
Members*

Jeanne Johnson,
Chair

Paul Russell, Vice
Chair

Eugene Liscombe,
Treasurer,
Representative to
Community
Preservation
Committee

Cher Hamilton,
Member

McKenzie Ward,
Member

Morgan Harris,
Member

We did not meet in October.

Members in Attendance (virtually): Jeanne Johnson, Cher Hamilton, Gene Liscombe, Paul Russell, McKenzie Ward, Morgan Harris

Others Present (virtually): Barbara Saint Andre, Director of Community and Economic Development, Katherine Mitchell, Recording Secretary, Rick & Cheryl Goodspeed, owners of 12 Charles River Road; Karen Keegan, Guaranteed Builders, working with the owners

Meeting was called to order by Historical Commission Chair, Jeanne Johnson at 7:02PM.

I. New Demo Applications and Property Questions – Application for demolition of the garage at 12 Charles River Road. Jeanne requested comments or questions on the garage to be demolished. All members have seen it. Eugene stated it was in tough shape. Jeanne sees no reason to object to the demolition due to its condition, location and other factors. Paul agrees there is no reason to preserve the garage.

On a motion made by Paul Russell, seconded by Gene Liscombe, by roll call vote, the Historical Commission determined the garage is not historically significant.

Paul Russell	Aye	Morgan Harris	Aye
McKenzie Ward	Aye	Jeanne Johnson	Aye
Gene Liscombe	Aye		

Jeanne will notify the owners, the builder, and the building commissioner of the Historical Commission decision.

Jeanne noted an application was received via email, 35 Milford Street, built in 1830. Jeanne suggested driving by the property before December's meeting to decide whether it is historically significant.

II. Consider minutes of September 2, 2020

a. On a motion made by Paul Russell, seconded by Eugene Liscombe, the Historical Commission voted unanimously by roll call vote to approve minutes of September 2, 2020, as corrected.

McKenzie Ward	Abstain (absent meeting)	Paul Russell	Aye
Gene Liscombe	Aye	Cher Hamilton	Aye
Morgan Harris	Abstain (Not a member at the time)	Jeanne Johnson	Aye

III. Treasurer's report (Gene Liscombe) There was nothing to report.

IV. CPC Report (Gene Liscombe) CPC did not have a meeting.

V. Upcoming Fall Town Meeting Barbara Saint Andre noted due to the State budget process differing from last Fall, CPA funds could not go forward. The article requesting funding for fencing at the Garnsey site will be added to the spring TM warrant.

VI. Updates on ongoing projects

Boston Post cane presentation. We had organized a small ceremony, observing COVID protocols, to present the cane to Medway’s current oldest resident, Esther Fox, to take place at Mahan Circle, Esther’s residence. Morgan and Paul attended ceremony. Along with Morgan and Paul, Charlie (Esther Fox’s Son) and his wife and a friend of Esther’s attended, as did Morgan’s mother. Town Clerk Mary Jane White read a proclamation. Milford Daily News did not attend. Jeanne thanked Paul for his assistance with presenting the cane to Esther and for taking charge of the event since she could not be there.

VII. New Business

a. Board of Selectmen would like the Historical Commission to purchase flag poles for Medway cemeteries:

- i. Oakland Cemetery, Broad Street (There is already a flagpole here,)
- ii. St. Joseph Cemetery, Oakland Street
- iii. Evergreen Cemetery (do we need to this?) It has been accepted by the State as an important site being a part of the Historic District.

b. Flag pole for another site could also be approved:

School Street Park (site of old school, which was demolished in the 1950’s); park to be dedicated as Harry T. ‘Buz’ Johnson Park; rededication of the playground as “Lillian Hodgson Playground.”

c. To approve this flag pole project funding, the Historical Commission needs to determine that these sites are an important part of Medway’s history.

Jeanne Johnson felt she might not be objective and left the meeting so the commission members could discuss and vote whether these sites, including Harry T. “Buz” Johnson Park, are important as stated above.

Paul first discussed, St Joseph’s Cemetery. Members questioned when it was originally established and how old the cemetery is. Paul recalls seeing old photos of it with a railroad behind it. He believes it’s over 70 years old. Paul suggested setting this vote aside, until they know the age.

The commission then discussed School Street Park. The two-room elementary schoolhouse was built in the 1800’s and served thousands of children until its demolition. Paul stated after the school was demolished, the playground was dedicated to the first kindergarten teacher of Medway, Lillian Hodgson. The park has been named for Harry T Johnson, who was very active in the Town, including but not limited to, Board of Assessors, Board of Selectmen, and other committees and projects throughout the Town. He served almost ten years as an Army officer in Vietnam and assisted with building a hospital there. Paul believes this is well supported.

On a motion made by Cher Hamilton, seconded by McKenzie Ward, the Historical Commission voted unanimously by roll call vote to declare Harry T. “Buz” Johnson Park an important site in Medway’s history.

McKenzie Ward	Aye	Gene Liscombe	Aye	Morgan Harris	Aye
Cher Hamilton	Aye	Paul Russell	Aye		

Jeanne returned to the meeting.

Paul asked Jeanne if she knew the age of St. Josephs Cemetery. Jeanne believes the late 1800's. Final resting place of many of Medway's citizens and veterans. A veteran's bench was placed there a few months ago. Jeanne believes it is historically significant to the Town of Medway.

On a motion made by Paul Russell, seconded by Gene Liscombe, the Historical Commission voted unanimously by roll call vote to declare St. Josephs Cemetery an important site in Medway's history.

McKenzie Ward	Aye	Gene Liscombe	Aye	Morgan Harris	Aye
Cher Hamilton	Aye	Paul Russell	Aye	Jeanne Johnson	Aye

Paul contacted the company who put the flagpole in previous locations, Eagle Flag of America in Hingham. for 2 flagpoles -\$650, installation is \$200 per flagpole & \$225 for 1 solar light. Total is \$1,075 per flagpole - around \$3,300 for 3 flag poles. Paul will work on an official quote to put forward to CPA.

58 Oakland Street- This is not a formal request. An application to demolish this house came before the Historical Commission about 2015-2016. The determination was that it was not historically significant and there was no objection to demolition as the property was in poor condition and not within a historic district. It is even more deteriorated now. Barbara or Stefany emailed this information to Jeanne.

On a motion made by Gene; seconded by Cher, the Historical Commission voted unanimously by roll call vote to adjourn at 7:46 PM.

McKenzie Ward	Aye	Gene Liscombe	Aye	Morgan Harris	Aye
Cher Hamilton	Aye	Paul Russell	Aye	Jeanne Johnson	Aye

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 2, 2020, via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Mitchell, Recording Secretary