



Medway Historical Commission Minutes

Wednesday, October 2, 2019, 7:30 p.m.
Medway Senior Center

Call to order; check attendance: Gene Liscombe, Cher Hamilton, Jeanne Johnson, Kathleen Hickey
Absent: Bruce Hamblin, Paul Russell, Kenzie Ward

As only three members were present at 7:30, the meeting was opened at 7:50, when a fourth member arrived.

There were no applications to demolish to consider.

Jeanne noted that our secretary, Ed Thompson, notified her by e-mail that he is in the hospital and will resign due to several health issues. We are sorry he can't continue.

As for meeting minutes, we considered and approved the minutes of August 21 and September 4.

Treasurer Gene Liscombe reported no change since last month. As our representative to the CPC, he reported they met a few weeks ago and it was an executive session and can't be discussed.

Updates on ongoing projects

- A. Benches for Cemeteries honoring veterans—no report.
- B. Evergreen Cemetery grant update (Paul Russell)—MA Historical accepted PAL for work.

No further report.

C. Old Town Hall Model discussion: Paul graciously contacted Matt Williston to inform him we are not moving forward with this project, and Matt answered that he has moved out of state. He said he has contacts in Massachusetts and will be pleased to offer suggestions on future projects if we need help.

D. The old bell which is now in front of Medway High School was mentioned last month. We wonder if there is a sign or plaque on it describing its history. The bell was made in Millis by the Holbrook Company and was placed at the old School Street school until that school was demolished (there is a playground on the site now.). Later it was at Medway High School (now the Middle School) on Holliston Street, then moved to the new high school on Summer Street, where it currently stands. Kathy, who is a substitute teacher, will look closely at the bell to see if it is marked.

- E. Our FB page has 147 members

New Business

A. November 18 Fall Town Meeting. One warrant article regards the proposed Oak Grove area (the so-called "bottle cap lots") along Trotter Drive and special zoning for the proposed development.

B. A question about historical plaques for historical public buildings came up last month: Town Hall, Anderson School (governed not by the Town but by a condo association), High Street School, etc. Bruce and Kathy agreed to investigate this possibility. Kathy doesn't have contact information for Bruce. She will write a letter to the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator to see if there would be interest in having these historic buildings marked. If so, we would investigate having nice markers, probably brass, made.

- C. Future projects that HS students could be involved in? (suggested last month by Kenzie)
Ideas suggested tonight were preparing a brochure describing the Historical Society's planned Historic House Tour in December; and helping Paul Russell finish getting the Historic Survey of Medway on PDF. There may be other projects, also. Kathy will look into this; she plans to speak with Aubry Rojee at the high school.
- D. Notice from Mass Historical Commission announcing the beginning of the FY 2020 Survey and Planning Grant cycle.
- E. Packet received from Norfolk County Registry of Deeds advising us that Registrar William P. O'Donnell would be honored to speak before this Commission as part of their outreach program. The Registry performs many services that would be of interest to the public.

Adjourn: at 8:44 Cher moved, and Gene seconded, that we adjourn; all agreed. Our next meeting is Nov. 6, 2019, Senior Center, 7:30 p.m.

(Once again, the door was locked when some of us arrived for this meeting; they had to knock on the meeting-room door and be let in. Jeanne will make inquiry during the day at the Senior Center.)

These minutes were prepared by Jeanne Johnson.s