

Medway Historical Commission Minutes

Historical Society Museum, 223 Main St., Medway, MA

Wednesday, September 5, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

Check quorum: Gene, Cher, Jeanne, Bruce, Paul; Secretary LeClair unable to attend.

CTO 7:30

Introduce guests: Barbara Saint Andre (Director, Community and Economic Dev.)

Sotir Papalilo (Developer); Bob Simon (owner of property at 68 Lovering Street); Tina Wright, abutter of 68 Lovering

1. Discussion: Proposed development of property (3 acres) at 68 Lovering Street, location of the old "poor farm/almshouse." Sotir Papalilo, Weston Development Group, Inc., inquired about the historic nature of the building and his proposed development, several 3-story buildings with eight apartments in each. This would likely involve demolishing the old almshouse, which is currently an apartment building with five units, though he said he could construct a building that would look like it in its current place. All participated in the discussion, asking questions, looking at his illustrations and plans. We thanked Mr. Papalilo for his presentation.

2. There were no notices of intent to demolish buildings.

3. Minutes of previous meetings – June minutes were approved (Bruce moved, Paul seconded, all approved). The notes taken by Jeanne at our unofficial meeting on August 1st were checked for accuracy; Bruce moved for agreement on accuracy, Cher seconded, all agreed.

4. Treasurer's report: Gene reported that at the end of FY 2018 the Historical Commission had used \$67.68 of our \$200 annual budget. The balance was returned to general revenue of the Town.

5. CPC Report: Gene reported they have not met since our last meeting on August 1st.

6. Project updates/recap

A. New format for Application to demolish a historically-significant building.

Barbara Saint Andre designed two formats for our demo-application form. We agreed on one which lists the property address as the first item. She will rework it a little bit more.

B. Evergreen Cemetery : Paul reported on steps we must take to move forward with nomination of the cemetery to the National Register of Historic Places. He contacted consultants and has proposed a budget for us to consider. A consultant from Beverly would charge \$9,000 to do it; they have done one cemetery in the past. A firm in Concord would charge \$12,000; they have completed 18 cemeteries. Paul suggests \$13,000 would assure us we could hire an experienced firm for this project.

i. Bruce moved and Paul seconded that we hire a consultant to help us finish this project. All approved the motion.

ii. Bruce moved and Paul seconded that we propose to the CPC a budget of \$13,000 for the purpose of hiring a consultant, based on information received by Paul from several consultants. All approved the motion. The funds would come from the historic portion of CPA funds.

iii. Bruce moved and Paul seconded that Gene and Paul present this project proposal and proposed budget to the CPC at their next meeting, a few days from now. All approved the motion.

iv. Cher moved and Gene seconded the motion that if the CPC agrees with the proposal, we will place an article for this purpose on the November Town Meeting warrant for approval by town voters. All approved the motion.

Ms. Saint Andre will have a “place holder” put on the November Town Meeting Warrant for our article in case the CPC hasn’t voted on it before the warrant deadline.

Paul Russell has written a draft of the warrant article. Ms. Saint Andre will review it for best phrasing, etc.

C. New members for this commission -- status (we still need two more members)

D. House plaques for historical houses—Cher has been in contact with a gentleman who makes them. Our question: can he include the Medway town seal on plaques for properties reviewed by this Commission? Cher reported that a plaque in Medford costs \$170; Historical Commission (Society???) members pay \$150.

E. Original-town-hall model—still on hold.

F. Paul has posted more photos of old Medway on the Medway Historical Society website; these are from town historian Fran Donovan’s glass negatives. Many thanks, Paul!

G. Gene asked if any of us had considered the CPC’s request for Historical Commission input on the application they are developing for applications for projects which would use CPA funds. There is already a section describing historical projects on the definitions page, and we think that is sufficient.

7. New business that may come before this commission.

A. Jeanne reported receiving an inquiry via e-mail from Ron Pisciotta about his grandparents’ house at 74 Holliston Street. He was unable to find it on a trip to Medway. Jeanne checked, then informed him the house was demolished when “Medway Commons” was constructed to make way for the access road into the shopping center.

B. Inquiry via e-mail to Jeanne from Tim Orwig, Boston College, regarding what we know as the old “Cole Library.” He attached two old drawings made from inside the building. Jeanne forwarded this to Paul, who answered his questions and forwarded several pictures of the building taken over a period of years.

C. Proposed changes to the multi-family overlay district, which would be on the warrant for the November Town Meeting. Jeanne will meet with Susy Affleck-Childs and Barbara tomorrow (Thursday) to discuss the proposed changes from the point of view of those who hope to preserve historical aspects of Medway. Gene will also attend. Some topics of discussion may include building height in relation to nearby properties, etc.

Jeanne Johnson, Chairman
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