



MENDON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Daniel Byer
Kathleen Schofield
Janice Muldoon Moors
Lynne Roberts Chairman
Connie Beal

20 Main Street
Mendon, MA 01756

MEETING DATE	February 13, 2023
LOCATION	Hybrid
STATUS	4/27/2023

historical@mendonma.gov

PRESENT: Lynne Roberts, Dan Byer, Janice Muldoon Moors, Kathy Schofield, Mike Goddard, Karen Balian and Paul and Kelly St. Ange.

Call to Order - Meeting opened 7:05pm

1. Public Hearing opened by Lynne Roberts for Consideration of removal of 62 Uxbridge Road and 53 Taft Ave from the Historic Resource Inventory List.

Review for 62 Uxbridge Road c. 1945. Following a brief discussion Kathy moved to remove 62 Uxbridge Road from the Historic Inventory List. Dan seconded the motion. All members voted to approve removal from the list. Presented by homeowner Karen Balian.

Review for 53 Taft Ave c. 1910. The group discussed removing this property from the inventory list. Following the discussion Dan made a motion to remove the property from the list. Janice seconded the motion. All members voted to approve removal from the list.

Dan noted that a property on Hartford Ave East missed the deadline for review. He recommended we review it when the list is updated at the end of the year.

Lynne closed the hearing at 7:17pm.

The Commission continued to discuss the unaddressed questions that remain with the bylaw as it stands. Mr. Goddard suggested we go to council with a building rubric or design guideline to map out how to handle buildings which in the future may have qualities that might qualify as historic in nature.

2. Review Meeting Minutes

Not all members had the opportunity to review meeting minutes. It was decided to postpone accepting those minutes until our next scheduled meeting. Lynne asked that members review the yearly report and provide feedback.

3. Records Room and Grant Application

The group discussed the status of the grant application. It was agreed to invite Mike Amendolia into the process to address his concerns and tap into his construction expertise. Kathy will meet with Mike and share his information with the engineering firm. Kathy will speak with

the neighbors about ground disturbances and the length of construction so they are aware and can express any concerns. The deadline for the grant application is March 18th.

4. Discussion on Town Hall Work

The members discussed the replacement of the town hall windows and the proposed project to modify the back section of the town hall. Dan, Lynne and Kathy met with the Town Administrator to discuss her ideas for the space with the architect she selected. The plan is to have that person oversee both aspects acting as a general contractor to provide some consistency.

Additional discussion took place to express concerns about how some projects were being executed. Commission members explained the plan is not clear and communication is not taking place. The Commission has been requesting for more than a year that interior work should be done with a comprehensive plan in place and done with the input of a group of people to ensure projects go smoothly and with some cohesion. Members re-iterated that projects like the police station and town hall campus improvements have gone smoothly and effectively due to the opportunity of a group of invested parties to help guide the process. Mr. Goddard expressed the importance of all parties knowing and understanding what is going on and would recommend to the Select Board that the Commission be included in the project. He also suggested there be prescheduled checkpoints.

He suggested meeting with the Select Board and mapping out concerns in writing and sending them to him. He mentioned his role in meeting with the Commission and helping to act as a liaison and guide.

5. Cemeteries

The Commission discussed moving forward with the next phase of the cemetery workshops. Kathy will send research information to Janice so she can compile it in one place. We will also submit an article to the Free Press to advertise a workshop in the spring months. There is still some confusion as to ownership of some of our abandoned cemeteries. Dan explained although the town is permitted to maintain some of these cemeteries there is still no clear path to who owns these properties. We will do additional research on this. Mr. Goddard suggested we work with Town Counsel to find some answers.

6. Items not reasonably anticipated 48hrs.

Kathy shared a publication from 1967 on the 300th Anniversary of the town. The group discussed updating the book and creating a new publication. Dan suggested the Historical Society may want to take that project on as a fundraiser. The group felt it would be a valuable asset to be able to have.

7. Schedule Next Meeting

The group expressed the difficulty scheduling meetings as many boards are changing times or moving dates. The Commission will aim to hold their meetings moving forward on the second Monday of the month.

Kathy moved to close the meeting at 8:43pm. Lynne seconded the motion. All members agreed to close the meeting.