



MENDON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Tom Merolli
Daniel Byer
Kathleen Schofield
Janice Muldoon Moors
Lynne Roberts Chairman

20 Main Street
Mendon, MA 01756

historical@mendonma.gov

MEETING DATE	4/20/2021
LOCATION	Virtual
STATUS	Approved 5/18/21

PRESENT: Lynne Roberts, Kathy Schofield, Dan Byers, Janice Muldoon Moors, Tom Merolli

GUESTS: Lawney Tinio, Select Board Member

Meeting opened at 7.06pm

Lynne Roberts apologized to attendees, due to a typing error, the Agenda was incorrect and read “Blight Bylaw” rather than “Demolition Delay Bylaw”. Due to this error, the Commission was not able to discuss the Demolition Delay Bylaw. A special invitation to attend had been sent to Select Board Member Lawney Tinio, who agreed to attend a special meeting of the Historical Commission on 4/29 where the focus of the meeting will be on this Bylaw.

1. The approval of the minutes of past meetings was delayed for a week as Janice advised that she had not received the minutes. Lynne would send them after the meeting. Lynne also undertook the responsibility for creating the minutes in future. Kathy and Lynne are working to bring all minutes up to date and have them posted to the Town website. Dan made a motion to delay the approval of the minutes for a week, seconded by Kathy, all agreed.
2. BLIGHT BY LAW – Although this was on the Agenda in error, Kathy Schofield asked that we could briefly discuss this issue as it was an ongoing problem in Town. Lynne explained that Tom Merolli had done a great job in pulling together a draft Bylaw. However, it had been decided that it would not be introduced yet as more work needs to be done on it. Kathy asked Select Board Member Tinio for his opinion and any suggestions he may have to help prevent this happening. He agreed that this can be a problem but becomes an issue where the Town has no resources (financial) to help. It was decided that there is a great deal of work still to be done.
3. PRESERVATION AWARD RECOGNITION & PLAQUE PROGRAM – Kathy Schofield advised that she had been contacted by the Historical Society regarding this Program and the fact that they no longer want to continue to administer it. They asked if the Historic Commission would be prepared to do it. A discussion followed regarding the administration of the Program and Select Board Member Tinio suggested that the Commission should check with procurement regarding recommending just one vendor for the Program. A suggestion was made that the Commission would administer the Plaque Program but allow the Historical

Society to collect all funds and arrange for the supply of the Plaque. Kathy Schofield also advised that the Preservation Awards, recognizing individuals for their work in restoration and preservation of historic properties in Town had been allowed to lapse. She felt that it was very important to recognize some of their preservation efforts and suggested that the Program should be revitalized, and an Annual ceremony should take place to present Awards. The Commission agreed. More work will be done to put an updated Program in place.

4. No new Demolition Applications had been received.
5. TOWN HALL CAMPUS – Dan Byer raised a point that he felt there should be a Town Campus Commission with a focus on creating a 10-year plan for the Campus. Lynne asked if this was something that Historic should be focusing on. A discussion followed and Select Board Member Tinio commented that the placement of the new Well will affect the rest of the Campus. He will add the topic to a Select Board Agenda to discuss a plan and talk about the Town Buildings. Painting of the Town Hall has become quite an important issue and discussions have been taking place about funding the cost and about other maintenance issues with Town Buildings.
6. NEW PROJECTS – Dan Byer raised the issue of the Records Room and the immediate and necessary needs to control the maintenance and repair issues. Dan advised that we really could use a fan in the basement to try and help dry it out. However, the cost of purchasing a fan could be up to \$300. As there are so many repairs that are necessary it was decided to table this item until more work is done on the records room project.

Dan also asked if the Commission would support the purchase of an additional spotlight for the flag in Founders Park, approximately \$50 and a new sign to replace the existing one in Founders Park, approximately \$200.

Dan made the motion to approve \$250 for the light and sign, Seconded by Janice and unanimously approved.

Lastly, Dan and Janice advised that, at the last Historic District Commission meeting, they had been asked to see if the Historic Commission would be willing to fund signage for the Historic Districts in Town as they had not been given a budget. They will be talking to the State Highway Department to see if they can obtain partial funding when the repairs are done to Route 16. It was felt that the Historic Commission would be willing to talk with them about the issue when they had some costs available.

7. RECORDS ROOM – Janice advised that she had received information from Norm Perron of BEI, following a field inspection, regarding the work necessary to bring the Records Room up to standard. All agreed that this was a very comprehensive list of items to be addressed. He can undertake an Engineering Assessment at a cost of approximately \$3500. This would be necessary before the Historic Commission could move forward with plans to apply for a State Grant to help fix the building. A discussion followed regarding the possible future uses of the building including renting it, selling it, or using as a meeting room/municipal office space (maybe Parks Department). This will be a large, ongoing project. Kathy also advised that the basement needs to be repointed and Dan suggested obtaining 3 quotes from companies that could do the work. This will be continued at a future meeting.
8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – It was confirmed that the Public Hearing for 91 Millville Road will be held in the upstairs meeting room of the Town Hall. This will be a hybrid meeting. Select Board Member Tinio was thanked for his attendance and contribution to the meeting.

Kathy Schofield made a motion to close the meeting at 8.43pm, seconded by Dan, unanimously agreed,