



**MENDON
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

Mendon, MA 01756
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Wayne Wagner, Chairman
Jane Lowell
Kathleen Schofield
Ellen Wagner
Tony Willoughby

20 Main Street

Meeting Date	December 17, 2013 at 6:30pm
Location	Mendon Town Hall
Status	Approved

Present

Tony Willoughby, Jane Lowell, Kathy Schofield

6:30 pm Call to Order

Acting Chair Tony Willoughby opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

6:31 pm Review Miscoe Springs Demolition Permit Application

Tony Willoughby presented the Historical Commission with information about the history of the Miscoe Springs Bottling Company.

Based on this presentation a motion was made by Tony Willoughby to find the properties at 89 Northbridge St. known as the Miscoe Springs Bottling Company as Historically Significant. Jane Lowell seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The motion read as follows:

Specifically, the following criteria in Section 2 Definitions, of the Demolition Delay By-Law are considered met by the Mendon Historical Commission.

1. Criteria 1 (Any building or structure, or portion thereof, within the Town which is in whole or in part, seventy-five (75) or more years old or is of unknown age); and/or

a. The fieldstone portion of the building was built in 1935, 78 years ago. The

original building is older than that.

2. Criteria 2 (The building or structure is associated with events or activities that have made a significant contribution to the history of Mendon, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or the United States):

- a. Bottled water from Miscoe Springs was purchased by the U.S. government and used in the war effort for both World Wars. During World War I Miscoe Springs water was shipped to U.S. troops stationed in France. During World War II Miscoe Springs, Allied soldiers in the Middle East and Eastern Europe consumed the water supplied by Miscoe Springs.
- b. The Miscoe Springs Water Company eventually sold other beverages, including ginger ale and orange dry. Miscoe Springs was the first to include natural fruit pulp in bottled beverages.

3. Criteria 3 (The building or structure is associated with the life or lives of persons significant in the history of Mendon):

- a. Nathan George opened the Miscoe Springs Water Company in 1897. (It was incorporated in 1899). Originally selling the spring water from his circa 1815 farm at 28 Main Street.
- b. The George family made significant contributions to the town of Mendon. Nathans' father Richard served as Town Counsel and Selectmen. He also served on the School Committee. Richard also served on the Building Committee for the iconic Unitarian Church. He also helped establish a farm for the poor.
- c. Nathan served as Town Moderator and Justice of the Peace. Nathan's children also improved the town of Mendon. Nathan Richard was a Selectmen and Town Treasurer. Julius served Mendon as a Selectmen, Town Moderator, Library Trustee and President of the Mendon Historical Society. Nathan's daughter, Rosa George Taft donated a generous financial gift to purchase the Union Evangelical Chapel and convert it to the Taft Library. The Taft Library is still in use today.
- d. The contributions made by the George family can still be found all around Mendon.

4. Criteria 4 (The building or structure embodies, either by itself or in context with a group of buildings or structures, distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values):
 - a. The 1935 Fieldstone Construction Method used in the building's outer shell is unique and few examples of this kind of construction method exist in the Town of Mendon.

After careful consideration the Mendon Historical Commission members voted unanimously to declare these buildings Historically Significant as defined by the criteria set forth in the Demolition Delay By- Law, Chapter XXIV.

Based on this determination of Historical Significance and according to the Demolition Delay By-Law correspondence will be sent to representatives Robert Torchia and Mr. Bruce Wheeler of Sylvan Springs LLC. The date of the determination of Historical Significance is recorded as December 17, 2013. Mr. Torchia and Mr. Wheeler will be asked to submit a Demolition Plan and additional supporting documents. The deadline for their response is February 16, 2014. Once received the Historical Commission will set up a Public Hearing.

7:00 pm Meeting Adjourned

Tony Willoughby moved to adjourn. Jane Lowell seconded it and all were in favor.