



MENDON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

20 Main Street
Mendon, MA 01756
historical@mendonma.gov

Wayne Wagner, Chairman
Jane Lowell
Kathleen Schofield
Ellen Wagner
Don Colanton

Meeting Date	April 7, 2015 at 7:00pm
Location	Mendon Town Hall
Status	Approved

7:10 Meeting Opened

Wayne Wagner opened the meeting. In attendance: Jane Lowell, Ellen Wagner, Kathy Schofield, Don Colanton, Dotty Leighton and Mr. Dick Skinner.

7:12 Review Meeting Minutes

The Commission reviewed the meeting minutes from March 2015. Jane Lowell made a motion to accept as amended. Kathy Schofield seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

7:15 Fire Station Thermometer Presentation

Mr. Skinner presented the fire station thermometer progress report to the Historical Commission. He brought photo shop images of the thermometer placed at several different locations (Senior Center, Olney Cook Shop, Old Fire Station etc.) He explained his concern that the thermometer could be struck by a truck if it were to be placed on the front of the old fire station. The commission discussed some of the proposed locations with Mr. Skinner and agreed we need to find a location that will give it good visibility and ensure it will be protected from harm. Mr. Skinner asked that the commission take some time and determine the best suitable location for the restored piece. The history of the thermometer was discussed. The c.1920 instrument was believed to have hung on the Milford National Bank. Dick Grady thought it was donated to the Fire station by Stanley Vincent, a volunteer firefighter for the town. The Commission will continue to search for information as to its origin.

7:30 Olney Cook Project

Member Don Colanton discussed the two proposals he received for the educational signage at the shop. Jean Knowles proposal for \$3690 with an interactive option of \$5500.00 and incorporated a DIY component. Ed Malouf's two proposal came in at \$8500.00 \$16k and was an experiential approach. It was determined that the Commission would be less likely to access adequate funds for Mr. Malouf's proposal. Don will arrange a site visit with Jean Knowles and contact Ed Malouf with the commission's decision. The commission will look into whether or not design work is considered under 149 A prevailing wage.

Jane reported that Dana Armour was able to take a look at the shop handle and feels he will be able to repair it. He would donate his services to do the work. He also suggested we leave the door open for a bit of time to allow the threshold to dry out as it has swollen from the moisture. Kathy moved to allow Dana to repair the handle. Ellen seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

7:50 Next Steps for Miscoe Springs

In early April the Mendon Board of Selectmen sent a letter to Mr. Wheeler and Habitech stating that the town would consider requesting CPC funds to pay for a survey / proposal for adaptive reuse of the Miscoe Springs building. A copy of that letter was sent to Gary Smith (at his request) who is representing the Sylvan Springs as their realtor. The letter requested that they contact the town to discuss the proposal. The commission felt the best return on their investment would be a condominium / townhouse option. It is unclear if an affordable housing option could be incorporated.

8:15 Joy Fountain and Old Cemetery

The Historical Commission members discussed next steps for the Joy Fountain and the Old Cemetery Restoration projects. The Cemetery Bid Request for 5k will be on the Annual Town Meeting on May 1st. If approved by voters the Commission can request the estimated 30k from Historic CPC funds to get the project done. Additional grants could be looked into to help fund the project. All necessary funds to complete the repair and paint removal on the Joy Fountain have been approved. Kathy will contact Tamara Conde to let her know we are ready to proceed with the work.

8:30 CPC Funding Requests / Town Hall Basement Project

Town Administrator Kim Newman updated the information on the basement-remodeling project for the town hall. The bids that came in

were much more than anticipated. Renovation of the bathroom will be removed from the scope of work and will reduce the total cost by 30k. Community Service workers from the Sherrifs Department will be requested to assist with the demolition part of the project to further reduce the cost of the project.

8:45 pm HC role in Sidewalk and Improvements in the Village Center

Kathy and Jane have continued to meet with Alan Tetreault regarding the sidewalk project for which CPC Historic Funds were approved to develop a plan and bid. Alan outlined the conceptual plan. He will share results of the plan with the commission. Discussion included the benefits of slowing vehicle speeds in the area with prominent crosswalks.

9:00 pm BVC Partnership Grant Application

Kathy and Jane reported the BVC Partnership Grant application was submitted on March 31st seeking funding for renovation and landscaping of the front entrance of the Town Hall. A decision should be out by the end of April. Amy, Jane and Kathy will turn their attention to applying for the MPPF Grant. They will discuss with Kim Newman which project might be best suited for this grant. They will attend a workshop in Millbury Public Library on writing this grant.

9:20pm Historic Sign Update

Kathy gave a brief update on information she was able to locate on the Historic Sign Project from 2000. She suggested the commission seek out an ambassador oversee this project. This might alleviate the workload on the commission members.

9:30pm Developing At Risk Property List

It was suggested that the commission develop a list of at risk properties in town. It might help to identify potential issues that might arise and help the commission to head off trouble before it arises. The members agree it would be a beneficial undertaking.

9:40pm Town Website

Members discussed some of the links and information that would benefit people who visited the Historical Commission section of the town website. Links to MACRIS and the Mass Historic Commission would be considered. Photographs as well as projects the commission is working on would be helpful. Dan Byer has offered to help the members set up the website with these features

9:45pm Adjourn

Jane moved to adjourn the meeting. Ellen seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday May 5, 2015.