



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	February 9, 2021
LOCATION	Virtual
STATUS	Approved 5/18/21

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

GUESTS: Fred Lapham (on behalf of 91 Millville Road applicant), Joseph Bibeault (President of Mendon Historical Society), Jane Lowell (Member Mendon Historical Society).

Meeting opened at 7.04pm

1. DEMOLITION REQUESTS: 91 Millville Road, Mendon

The demolition request was reviewed by the members of the Commission. The first matter discussed was the actual age of the property. On the application, the property is listed as being built in 1900. However, it was suggested that a deed search should be carried out as the Historical Society has information that the house was on the site from 1849. In either event, the property meets the criteria of being over 75 years old and warrants further investigation as to the potential historical significance to the Town. The 4 criteria to be considered are:

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
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; and/or
3. The building or structure is associated with the life or lives of persons significant in the history of Mendon, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or the United States; and/or
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.

Kathy Schofield additionally informed the Commission that the property potentially served as part of the Albeville District, comprising of a school, boot shop, cemetery and several houses. This was an active and busy Town Center. It was noted that the building is a 2-family (up and down) and has been renovated at various times. We were advised by the Applicant that the current owner moved in mid-80's when the property was again renovated. Many discussions took place as to whether or not this is, in fact, the

original house. A discussion also followed on the “hardship” element of the application. The issue was raised of this being a “safety” hazard. Jane Lowell advised that the speed limit at this part of the road is 25mph and felt it did not create any more of a safety issue than any other road in Mendon. The Commission took a vote on a motion made by Tom Merolli, seconded by Kathy Schofield whether this property should be deemed Historically Significant to the Town. The motion passed unanimously.

Following the Demolition Delay By-Law, the Historical Commission will now follow the guidelines and hold a Public Hearing. The Applicant has to provide a Demolition Plan Review.

2. DEMOLITION DELAY BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Kathy Schofield has agreed to present the revisions to the Demolition Delay Bylaw at the Annual Town Meeting. She is in the process of preparing a Powerpoint Presentation which she will share with the Commission prior to presentation in May.

3. FY22 BUDGET – REQUEST FOR CPA FUNDS BY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Jane Lowell brought a request from the Historical Society for funds to preserve some of the most important Documents in Mendon. These documents have been scanned and uploaded to our digital records but the HS wants to actually preserve the originals documents. Some of these include Revolutionally War Documents, (Military Orders), a 1719 Survey Book, a Leather File Folder containing correspondence by John Metcalf, etc. On a recommendation by the Grafton Historical Society, Green Dragon Preservations were contacted to obtain a price for preserving some of the documents. The initial funds required would be \$2450. However, this is only for some of the documents. It was felt more prudent to ask for a larger sum to cover most of the documents rather than have to return to Town Meeting every time funds were needed. Of course, any funds not utilized would be returned to CPA. A motion was made by Kathy Schofield, seconded by Dan Byer to request \$5,000 on behalf of the Historical Society for document preservation. The motion was carried unanimously. Jane Lowell and Lynne Roberts will prepare the application and provide a letter for the application supporting this effort.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Town Hall Roof. Janice Muldoon Moors has spoken to a vendor regarding any/all repairs that may be necessary to the Roof on the Town Hall. The vendor is making an appointment to meet at the Town Hall to give us a price.

2. Scenic Roads/Demolition Delay updates to Bylaw. Kathy is handling the Powerpoint for the Demolition Delay amendments to the Bylaw and will send it to Commission members to review. Lynne is doing the same with the Scenic Road Bylaw amendments. Lynne also noted that she has photos of some of the properties that have been demolished over recent years. She will forward them to Kathy or download them onto a storage stick.

3. Concerns were raised about the properties at 106 Millville and 9 Main Street (owned by the same person but needs to be checked). Both properties are left open and likely cause an issue for the Board of Health. Lynne will call/email the Building Inspector to advise of our concerns. 106 Millville is an 1800 build. 9 is in the Center Historic District.

Meeting was closed at 8.50pm

