



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	October 7, 2019
LOCATION	Town Hall
STATUS	approved 1/17/22

PRESENT: Lynne Roberts, Kathy Schofield, Dan Byer, Tom Merolli

Meeting opened at 7:00pm

1. New Demolition Permit Applications – 93 Providence Road

The Commission members reviewed the application for demolition of 93 Providence Road. Applicants are John Lucas and David Claro. After a brief discussion of this property it was determined this property has no historical significance and does not meet any other criteria of the Demolition Delay to warrant a hearing. Tom moved to approve the demolition request. Kathy seconded the motion. All members approved the demolition request.

134 North Ave applicant is Route 85 Realty seeking demolition of the barn located on the property. The Commission would like clarification of the actual street address whether it is 134 North Ave or 1 and 3 Miscoe Road. The Commission will check with Jean Berthold for confirmation for our records. After a discussion regarding the historical significance of the barn the members determined that there were few criteria that were met to warrant a hearing or demolition delay. Tom moved to approve the demolition application for the 134 North Ave barn. Dan seconded the motion. All members approved the application. Lynne will send a letter to the owners.

143 and 145 Hartford Ave East Following the hearing with Rte 85 Realty Corp on October 2, 2019 the commission reviewed material presented at the hearing. These structures are historically significant and represent homes belonging to Dr. Daniel Thurber who served as a representative to the General Court in 1891 where he served for 25 years. He was a member of the Charity Masons Lodge, The Thurber Medical Society was named in his honor. The Society began in 1853 and was composed of certain members of the Massachusetts Medical Society living in Milford and its vicinity. It was considered one of the longest standing medical associations in the commonwealth. In addition, his reputation was so notable that both Harvard University and Brown University of RI bestowed him with honorary degrees of MD. His reputation was well known and his practice extensive serving Mendon, Milford and many surrounding communities.

Suggestions to consider repurposing the structures were respectfully declined. The owner felt that the only way to make sufficient profit on their purchase would occur only if the lot were cleared to make way

for a structure more suitable for a major intersection. They felt the access to and from the property at this intersection would be complicated by the location of the house.

After careful deliberation a consensus was reached. Tom moved to approve the demolition permit contingent upon a site visit by the commission. Kathy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

2. November Town Meeting Planning

Dan will figure out if the allotment received by the Commission to pay for mailings, hearing notifications etc. is returned to the general fund if unused. The commission discussed increasing that amount at the ATM in May in order to accommodate increased costs.

3. Coordination with other Boards/Commissions

We will need a new representative on the CPC with Mike Goddard retiring from the commission. Lynne Roberts will serve in his place.

The Historical Commission discussed meeting with the Planning Board to look at the commission goals and to try and find common ground to work together. There are concerns that the ongoing absence of a Master Plan is complicating good growth in our community and jeopardizes the retention of historically significant structures and areas is increasingly more difficult without a sound plan in place.

4. Olney Cook Shop

The lexan window coverings have been installed at the Olney Cook Shop by Area Glass. Kathy will get the information to Anne Mazar to arrange payment.

5. Media Campaign

The members discussed working on a media campaign to help inform voters of the work we are doing and the threat to our historic home inventory. The number of demolitions continues to rise and the group feels it is important to point out the value of these homes in defining the history of our community. We will continue to discuss this matter and how to begin work on public outreach.

6. Scenic Roads By Law

Kathy has reviewed scenic road bylaws from several towns. There are several approaches and definitions the town can employ in our bylaw to help clarify the language so it is more understandable. In addition, it would be advisable to include the Historical Commission in the review process in order to ensure the proposed changes are in line with the goal of the bylaw and to make sure historical significance is identified prior to any work being done. Kathy will continue editing the bylaw and present it to the group.

7. Any other items not anticipated prior to meeting

Meeting was closed at 8.45pm