



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	April 30, 2019
LOCATION	Old Taft Library
STATUS	approved 1/17/22

PRESENT: Lynne Roberts, Dan Byers, Janice Muldoon Moors, Tom Merolli
Meeting opened at 7pm.

1. Demolition Permit Application – 143 Harford Avenue East

Lynne has not heard back from John Nenart with a response on the missing information for the demolition permit for 143 Hartford Ave East. She will contact the building inspector to inquire about securing the building.

2. Tree removal in Cemeteries

Alan is currently working with National Grid to complete tree maintenance on Blackstone Street and Route 16. This project will take a month or two to finish. At that point he will know what is left over in the budget for removal of dead trees in the cemeteries. Both Locust Hill and the Bicknell Cemetery on Hartford Ave East present the bigger challenges. Dan will look into the funds gifted to the town for the Bicknell Cemetery and try to determine what those funds can be used for.

3. Eagle Scout project update

Dan will contact the Eagle Scout to see if he may be able to return to the cemetery and remove the debris left behind.

4. Demolition Application 30 Miscoe Road

Lynne left a message for John Morais but has not heard back from him. She will draft a letter to him so that he knows how to move forward on his request for a demolition permit for this property.

5. Little Nipmuc Island

Nothing to report.

6. 7 Nipmuc Road demolition update

The commission members were able to see the property located at 7 Nipmuc Drive. The owner is requesting a permit for demolition. A local architect attended the site visit to share his thoughts on the structure. The main house retains some unique features more commonly associated with lakeside camp

structures. The significance of the structure lays primarily with the history of the area rather than rare architectural features. The second building is currently occupied and was not available for showing. The members discussed the relevance of the structure in the history of the Nipmuc Lake Days which was a hallmark of the community for almost 100 years. In addition, it is unclear what happened to Thornton Street Extension which runs through the property. It is still listed as a roadway on the town map as well as Mass GIS. Kathy will talk to the highway dept and see if it was ever decommissioned and if so when.

7. Hopedale Street designation as 'scenic road'

The warrant for the scenic road designation has been approved by the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen.

8. Blight bylaw

Tom has done some research on Blight Bylaws and shared some of his findings. The commission discussed some of the issues a blight bylaw may present to both homeowners and the town. Specifically, discussion focused on enforcement of a blight bylaw and determination of when the bylaw would be enacted. Further research and discussion is in order.

9. Letter to Historic Homeowners

After discussing the numerous demolition requests this year the commission looked at finding more proactive approaches to inform historic homeowners both inside and outside of the Local Historic District of the significance of their properties. Lynne recommended we get a list through the assessor's office and reach out to these homeowners. She suggested sharing historic information and ask them if they might consider setting up single home historic districts. She will draft the letter and send it out for review.

Meeting was closed at 8.45pm