



MENDON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Mendon, MA 01756
historical@mendonma.gov

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

20 Main Street

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| Meeting Date | November 18, 2014 at 7:00pm |
| Location | Mendon Town Hall |
| Status | Approved |

7:05 Meeting Opened

Chairman Wayne Wagner opened the meeting. Commission members in attendance: Wayne Wagner, Ellen Wagner and Don Colanton.

Other attendees; Doug and Bernie Curtis, 104 Northbridge Rd. Dick Skinner 143 Hartford Ave E.

7:10 Update on Miscoe Springs

Meeting attendees Doug and Bernie Curtis asked for an update on the status of Miscoe Springs. Wayne Wagner and Don Colanton provided overview comments on the Commission's request to Habitech Principal, Bruce Wheeler to extend the delay on his demolition plans for the stone structure while approving the demolition of the remaining Steel building structure. It was discussed that the intent of such a delay would be to consider engaging architectural studies on adaptive reuse options for the stone structure. It was noted that Mr. Wheeler has not responded to the request and that should his firm decide at this time to demolish the whole structure, he would be in compliance with the towns demolition by laws as the six month period has expired. Ellen Wagner brought up the tax issues that Habitech has with the town. Mr. and Mrs. Curtis thanked the commission for its time upon their departure.

7:25 Fire Station Thermometer Restoration

Meeting attendee Mr. Dick Skinner made a presentation on his previous restoration work with antiques and offered his services gratis to research and restore the Fire Station Thermometer at no cost to the town. He noted that his attendance was at the request of the Board of Selectmen, as they want the Historical Commission to OK the project. After reviewing the presentation with great enthusiasm, the Commission members agreed with the restoration proposal and Wayne will notify the selectmen as such.

7:45 Review Meeting Minutes

The Commission reviewed meeting minutes from October 15, 2014. Don moved to approve the minutes as is. Ellen seconded the motion. All members voted to accept the minutes.

7:50 Old Business

Joy Fountain:

On hold with no further discussion.

Blackstone River Valley National Heritage grant process, Olney Cook Shop and Old Cemetery:

The commission began discussion by reviewing the grant application procedure and Don pointed out the ideal fit for applying for funds to create the exhibit display and signs for the Olney Cook shop. The response to Don's note to Ms Cutler of the Heritage commission was discussed with the understanding that the next round of funding would be with application submitted in the winter months and funding approved by the spring.

A review of the grant requirements led to discussion with Wayne noting we should consider using our existing to date funds outlays in consideration of matching funds requirement in the application. Funds to be applied for were discussed with the idea that an outside consultant with experience in exhibit display would be pursued. It was discussed that the individuals in this line of work have the capability to create all the content, narrative and pictures, for display and proper exhibit at the site. Don reviewed potential experts identified from a New England Museum Association (NEMA) listing and suggested a posting of our needs through the On Line board, "Linked In". Don will create a posting and bring it to the next meeting.

With an eye to the Cemetery project, Ellen noted we have invested so much in the Olney Cook shop that we should push to bring it to conclusion first and pursue Heritage grant money for the project and defer a potential cemetery application until after the artisan shop application. Wayne strongly agreed and Don also concurred.

Town Hall Egress

Wayne led the discussion with the observation that the Board of Selectmen want to pursue CP funds for this project as the Town Hall is a historic structure. Discussion touched upon aspects from tearing down and rebuilding exterior steps, exterior ramp repair to the ADA requirements for the elevator on the basement floor. On the elevator, Wayne has contacted Kim Newman, Administrator for the town requesting a review of any potential issues with the architectural work performed on the elevator and other renovations completed at that time. Don raised the question of the distinction between repairs and renovation when considering a CP funds application.

Demolition permit request, 5 Southwick St.

The Brewer family Realty Trust presented an application to the commission for permission to tear down an animal housing building on the premises. The commission reviewed photos and after discussion the structure was not deemed of historical significance. Don motioned that the commission approve the request for demolition. Ellen seconded and the vote was unanimous in approval.

Master Plan Survey Results

Discussion deferred.

9:05 Next meeting date and Adjournment

It was decided to return to the regular schedule with the next meeting to be held on Dec. 2, 2014. Ellen moved to adjourn the meeting. Don seconded the motion. All members voted to adjourn.