



## MENDON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Mendon, MA 01756  
[historical@mendonma.gov](mailto:historical@mendonma.gov)

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

20 Main Street

Meeting Date	July 2, 2014 at 7:00pm
Location	Mendon Town Hall
Status	Approved

### 7:02 Meeting Opened

Chairman Wayne Wagner opened the meeting. In attendance: Wayne Wagner, Ellen Wagner, Jane Lowell, Don Colanton and Kathy Schofield.

### 7:03 Review Meeting Minutes

The Commission reviewed meeting minutes from June 25, 2014. Jane moved to approve the minutes. Ellen seconded the motion. All members voted to accept the minutes.

### 7:15 Olney Cook Progress

The Commission reviewed the balance of work at the Olney Cook Shop. Kathy reported the electrical hook up is scheduled for July 16 and will be completed by Senecoelectric. She reported calling Virgilio regarding the failing cedar tree and they are scheduling to come out and look at it. The Commission members agreed it was ok to bring the electric into the building from the back of the building.

Jane suggested we set flat stones and pea stones at the base of the windows to reduce splash onto the windows during heavy rainstorms. The Commission discussed using plexi-glass to cover and protect the windows from accidental damage but it was reported that it might cause more harm than good.

The Commission discussed protecting the writing on the doors and walls. Jane will investigate how to best achieve this and will contact the Duxbury Historical Commission who recently restored a craftsman shop.

Kathy will speak to National Grid about relocating the meter to the utility pole.

Kathy will call on the cost of the Blackstone Valley Heritage signage. Wayne will speak to Margaret Carroll to see how much the Chestnut Hill Meeting House paid for their sign.

Don said he would be interested in locating information to put together a storyboard for the shop. The Commission will discuss a long-range plan for the shop in the coming months.

### Schedule Joy Fountain Repairs and Relocation

Kathy met with Historic Restorations out of Salem Ma. to update the estimate for the repair of the fountain. To date Anne Mazar and Susan Darnell have approved relocation to Founders Park. Jane said she would present the proposal to the Board of Selectmen for their approval. Historic Restorations would like the fountain in it's permanent home before they do the repairs. Jane will meet with Susan to select a site on the park.

### Miscoe Springs Update

The Commission discussed information collected by Don on possible options for Miscoe Springs. He had an extensive conversation with Gary Smith to get his opinion for adaptive reuse of the building and the potential interest of buyers for a building like this.

Kathy called and sent a letter to Bruce Wheeler and has not had any response from him. Don offered to put in a follow up phone call. The members agree they need to know what Mr. Wheeler's intentions are for the historic building. The members will determine if Mr. Wheeler would agree to sell off the parcel and if so what his asking price would be. The commission could at that point seek out interested parties.

An additional possibility would be to sign the demolition permit and specify that it would only apply to building #2. The two structures are listed separately on the permit. The Commission will have to check with town council to see if this is a viable legal option.

Don pointed out that there are issues with the bylaw as it is worded now. It has limited enforcement and requires little participation for historic property owners to work towards adaptive reuse. As it stands property owners can wait out the delay until it expires and then move forward with demolition. Don has reviewed several Demolition Delay Bylaws and suggested we consider modifying our bylaw.

### **Old Cemetery Restoration Quote**

Historic Restorations gave the Commission a rough quote of \$30,000.00 for restorations at the cemetery. They also quoted \$1000.00 for a cleaning and setting workshop to help offset some of the expense. Jane and Kathy will work on an IFB for the Old Cemetery restoration. Kathy will also post information with the Boy Scout Troops in town to see if any Eagle Candidates might be interested in surveying, photographing and cataloging the other cemeteries. Jane will ask Sue and Bob Reiss to see if they have a copy of the cemetery book that was prepared several years ago.

Jane commented that at the DCR workshop she attended, she was told that we would need permission from family members to work on the graves. It was agreed we would prepare a legal post in the newspaper to accomplish this. The commission discussed looking into CPC funds for a signboard on the history of the cemetery.

### **Pearson Property**

The Commission discussed that the first right of refusal has been presented to the town for the Pearson Property. Kathy toured the property with Mr. Pearson and several selectmen. Patrice Doucette completed the deed search on the property. The Commission will wait to see if the Community Preservation Committee has a possible plan for the property.

### **Power Lines on Main Street**

The Commission will approach the selectmen about contacting National Grid to bury the power lines on Main Street. The request will have to come from the town. The Commission would like to see it included as part of the plan for improvements in the village for the town's 350<sup>th</sup> celebration.

### **350th Plans**

The Selectmen are working with the Brothers of the Brush to begin preparations for the town's 350<sup>th</sup> celebration. It was recommended that a representative from the Historic Commission be appointed to the committee.

### **Items not reasonably anticipated:**

Demolition Permit 40 Kinsley Lane:

The Commission reviewed and approved a demolition permit submitted for 40 Kinsley Lane that is a garage structure. Jane moved to approve the permit. Don seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

Discussion on Fire Station Renovation:

The Mendon Police Department is investigating the possibility of renovating the old Fire Station to serve as office space for the department. The Commission is concerned the new station will remain unfinished if CPC funds are used to renovate the fire station.

## **8:50pm Adjourn**

Ellen moved to adjourn the meeting. Kathy seconded the motion. All members voted to adjourn.