



Mendon Historical Commission

Members: Wayne Wagner, Chairman Amy DeWitt, Vice Chair
Jane Lowell
Ellen Wagner
Tony Willoughby, Recording Secretary

Meeting Date	May 1, 2012
Location	Mendon Records Room
Status	Approved May 23, 2012

Present

Wayne Wagner, Amy DeWitt, Jane Lowell, Ellen Wagner, Tony Willoughby

Morgan Rousseau, Milford Daily News

7:03 Call to Order

Chairman Wagner called the meeting to order.

7:04 Review and Approve Previous Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes of April 17, 2012. A. DeWitt asked that "renaissance man" be removed from the description of Seth Hastings. J. Lowell moved to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by A. DeWitt. The motion passed unanimously.

7:08 Olney Cook Artisan Shop Restoration

A. DeWitt reported the following: She spoke with Phillip Warbasse, Architect with Chenot and Associates. Phillip is following up on recommendations for Vareika Construction. Phillip spoke with Patrick Guthrie. Guthrie hired Vareika to do a full restoration project which included 70 windows. Guthrie said Vareika did an "excellent" job. Mr Warbasse has no reservations about Vareika Construction.

At 7:13 E. Wagner made the following motion:

I move that the Historic Commission recommend Vareika Construction to the Board of Selectmen for the Olney Cook Artisan Shop restoration project.

The motion was seconded by J. Lowell and passed unanimously.

Action Item ⇒ T. Willoughby to write a letter to the Board of Selectmen informing them of this motion. Copies to be sent to Mendon Conservation Commission, Mendon Planning Board and Mendon Zoning Board of Appeals.



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7:08 Housing Authority Barn Restoration

The Commission discussed hiring an architect to develop a plan and an estimate to restore the Housing Authority barn. W. Wagner reported that he discussed using CPA planning funds with Anne Mazar (CPC Chair).

Action Item ⇒ A. DeWitt to approach Phillip Warbasse to see if he is interested.

7:26 Preservation Restrictions for Certain Municipal Buildings

The Commission discussed protecting some municipal buildings (The Taft Library, The Records Room and The Historical Society's Museum) with preservation restrictions (also known as "preservation easements"). The Milford Daily News recently ran an article describing problems with the Nathan Fisher House in Westborough. The 1820 house was given a Massachusetts Historical Commission grant of \$30,000 to install a handicapped bathroom. In exchange for the grant a restriction was placed on the deed that would protect the historical aspects of the house. The article stated that, because of the expense of restoration, the building has been abandoned by the town.

The article concerned E. Wagner. She wouldn't want to see Mendon put in a similar situation as Westborough.

T. Willoughby pointed out that the Fisher House has been abandoned for years and the Mendon buildings are all in use.

A. DeWitt felt the article took a simplistic approach to a complicated subject. She also stated that the holder of the restriction was very important with respect to how it is managed. She suggested that Historic New England may be a good candidate.

J. Lowell is in favor of the restrictions. She pointed out that there are certain grants that are only available if the property is protected.

W. Wagner asked if Michele Barker (Circuit Rider, Preservation Massachusetts) could meet with use and educate the Commission on the pros and cons of preservation restrictions.

Action Item ⇒ A. DeWitt to contact Ms. Barker and ask if she can attend our June meeting. Also to learn if Preservation Massachusetts can hold a restriction on municipal buildings.

7:56 Demolition Permit Application, 34 George Street

T. Willoughby reported that the return receipt for the letter sent to Domenic Alfonso, F & D Central Realty was received. It was dated April 20, 2012.

8:05 Motion to Adjourn

E. Wagner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by J. Lowell. The motion passed unanimously.