



**MENDON  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION**

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

Meeting Date	May 5, 2015 at 7pm
Location	Mendon Town Hall
Status	Approved

**Present**

Wayne Wagner, Ellen Wagner, Jane Lowell, Don Colanton, Kathy Schofield, Peter Coffin and Jeanne Knowles.

**7:05 Call to Order**

Chairman Wayne Wagner called the meeting to order.

**7:05 Meeting with Jeanne Knowles– Olney Cook Signage Proposal**

The Commission members had a walk through with Jeanne Knowles at the Olney Cook Shop on May 5<sup>th</sup> prior to the meeting. Members reviewed some of the projects she has completed.

She made recommendations for educational and historical signage at the site. An embossed sign on the outside of the building visible from the street was recommended. Suggestions were made to frame interior signage for educational interaction geared for school age children. Discussions included a brochure and a self-serve option. Jeanne reviewed the many electronic educational opportunities including a content QR code, a web based educational app and a virtual tour.

Jeanne will provide references for the Commission to contact. Kathy will talk to Marcy Singer again about funding a portion of the project if it were tied into Dick Grady's History Trolley Tour.

**7:30 35 George Street**

Peter Coffin came in to discuss the status of the Cox Property. The Commission reported that they understood there was an issue that was holding up the release of the property to the town. The Commission suggested he contact Anne Mazar to see how the process was going from the perspective of the CPC. The Commission told Mr. Coffin that the project has the groups support. The Commission will begin to address the preservation restriction for the property and meet with the CPC in order to make a push to get the project moving.

**7:40 Approve Minutes**

Jane made a motion to approve the minutes of April 7, 2015 as amended. Ellen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**7:50 Miscoe Springs**

To date there has been no information or response from Bruce Wheeler at Habitech. A recommendation was made to contact Dwight Watson and Vinnie Cataldo and get a report on what happened regarding the attempt they made to take the Springs by Eminent Domain.

#### **8:00 Joy Fountain and Old Cemetery**

Tamara Conde will begin work on repairs to the Joy Fountain in the next few weeks. The request for \$5,000.00 in funds from the CPA to pay her to prepare an RFP for the Old Cemetery is on the May 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Tamara reiterated her recommendation that we seek additional grant money to offset the cost in order to attract the best professionals to do the job. Jane confirmed the amount cap for state projects that have to go out to bid is \$34,999.00. Kathy will talk to Tamara to see if she can have the RFP ready for the June 24<sup>th</sup> Special Town Meeting.

#### **8:15 Town Hall Basement**

Town Administrator Kim Newman has been working to adjust the bid for the Town Hall Basement to meet available funds. The removal of the bathroom upgrade will adjust the project enough to keep it on budget. The project will begin in the next two weeks. She reported that the Historical Commission will be included in the cosmetic decisions. Kathy asked Wayne if he might do a write up on the uses of the Town Hall through the years and provide a sketch of how the floor plan looked. Jane suggested asking Geneva Dudley to share her memories as well.

#### **8:30 BVC Partnership Grant Update**

The Town Hall Entry Project was not accepted for the Blackstone Valley Partnership Grant. The proposal will be kept on file and we will look at other funding options. Jane, Amy Dewitt and Kathy have been working on the next grant offered through the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The MPPF Grant Round 21 was sought to fund a Town Hall Campus Study. If accepted the MHC would require a 10 year preservation restriction on the campus which would include the Taft Public Library and the Old Mendon Fire Station. As part of the grant process the project needs Historical Commission approval. Ellen Wagner moved to approve and support the Grant Application for the Town Hall Campus Study and the Preservation Restriction. Jane Lowell seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

#### **8:45 Demolition Applications for Nipmuc Drive Garage and the lake house at 60 Uxbridge Rd.**

After a brief discussion a motion to accept the demolition permit for the Nipmuc Drive Garage was made by Ellen. Jane seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. A brief discussion followed on 60 Uxbridge Rd. According to the Demolition Delay Criteria it was determined that this house meets at least two of the criteria. It was suggested that the Commission meet with the new hom owners to see if any efforts to rehabilitate the property had been considered. Wayne said he would contact the homeowner and set up a meeting.

#### **8:20 Motion to Adjourn**

Jane made a motion to adjourn the meeting. E. Wagner seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.