



**MENDON
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

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

Meeting Date	August 4, 2015 at 7pm
Location	Mendon Town Hall
Status	Approved

Present

Wayne Wagner, Don Colanton, Kathy Schofield, Jane Lowell and Richard Skinner.

7:00 Call to Order

Chairman Wayne Wagner called the meeting to order.

7:00 Meet with Mr. Skinner

Mr. Skinner came in to discuss the location for the Fire Station Thermometer that he had restored. The Commission felt we might want to place it back on the Old Fire Station once the proposal from the Town Hall Campus Study is complete. That should be done by September 2016. The Commission recommended storage in the vault in the meantime if Mr. Skinner preferred it be stored there.

7:15 Review Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes from July were reviewed. Don moved to accept the minutes as written. Jane seconded the motion. All members voted in favor to accept the minutes.

7:20 Outcome of MPPF Grant

On Monday August 3, 2015 the Town of Mendon was awarded an MPPF Grant in the amount of \$30,000.00 for the Town Hall Campus Study. There is a meeting on August 12th in Boston to review the next steps for grant recipients. Kim Newman, Jane, Kathy and Amy will attend. We will invite Kim to the next Historical Commission meeting to discuss level of participation and will request to be included in the selection process for a designer.

The remaining preservation restrictions for the Library and Old Fire Station will be on the November STM. The award will be contingent on the passing of those preservation restrictions. Mass Historic will hold those PR's. They hold the PR on the Town Hall.

7:30 Signage Project Olney Cook Shop

The Commission confirmed that there is a balance of \$2,732.62 in the Historic Commission account that we can apply to the signage project. Don will talk to Jeanne Koles and request a quote to determine how much of the project can be covered with that amount. (It was suggested at the July meeting that sign installation is something we can accomplish through the Parks Department or Highway Department. Kathy will speak to Alan Tetreault and Dan Byer to confirm that). Don will ask for a quote for the balance of work. He will check with Jeanne on her general liability and automobile insurance and find out what her experience has been with town contracts. The Commission will check to see if this project can be done with a purchase order or if we need a contract. We will prepare one if that is the case. The Historical Commission will ask for the balance of the project funding from the CPC Historic Account. The goal is to have that request on the November STM Warrant. In the meantime we will set up a meeting with Dick Grady to discuss the educational component and how it might be tied into the Trolley Tour.

7:45 Old Cemetery Proposal

TaMara Conde of Historic Gravestone Services sent her completed proposal for the Scope of Work on the Old Cemetery. Kathy is submitting her invoice to Diane Willoughby for payment. Jane and Kathy are working with Mass Historic to determine how this project could be bid out (IFB or RFP). Once that is done we can marry the Scope of Work to the balance of the contract prepared by Town Counsel. TaMara gave two estimates on Phase / Priority 1 Work. This includes 111 level 1 stones and the tombs. Without bonds the project estimate is \$40-\$50 thousand dollars. With performance and bid bonds expect the price to be \$65-\$75 thousand dollars.

Phase Two – Priority Two and Three Stones –

Kathy needs to get the estimate for this phase. TaMara suggested we could save money taking care of most of the phase 2 & 3 stones by hosting a workshop with her. The cost is \$1,000.00 and includes hands on instruction for resetting leaning stones and stone cleaning. It is something the Historical Commission might consider. TaMara made several recommendations to help with funding including opening up the workshop to other towns for a small fee and establishing a Friends Group for the Old Cemetery.

Wayne did some additional research on the Quabbin Cemetery Restoration and found information on the cleaning process.

Jane said the Historical Society is planning a Cemetery Tour of several town cemeteries on October 24th to help increase awareness and interest.

Kathy mentioned that there are two Eagle Scout Candidates who have expressed an interest in surveying the town cemeteries and creating electronic documentation for the town. She will be following up with those scouts in the next month or two.

The Old Cemetery Restoration Project should be included in the November STM so we can move forward and put the project out to bid. We will have to schedule to meet with the CPC for approval and prepare a warrant article for submission.

8:00 Cox Property Preservation Restriction

Jane is investigating how to handle the preservation restriction for the Cox House at 34 George Street. PR's cover both the interior and exterior of the structure, which would inhibit the interior from being completely remodeled. If the house were in a historic district the PR could be limited to the exterior only. She will keep the Commission updated on her findings. It would be unfortunate to lose some of the historic interior features.

8:10 Historic Sign Application Review

The Commission reviewed the application and gave it their approval. Kathy will work on press releases and Wayne will look into finding someone to produce the signs. He can talk to Karen Mullen at Signs Plus in Milford. They did the original signs in 2000. The Commission discussed adding other significant municipal structures to the list and which homes could be included in the program. That number would be contingent on how much money could be allocated from Historical CPC funds. Wayne suggested selling or splitting the cost of the signs as part of the 350th celebration. Kathy will do an inventory of houses on the National Historic Register and the Commission can make a determination from there.

8:25 Upcoming Programs

Jane suggested members attend a program on September 24th at the Blackstone Public Library on Protecting Historic Structures. The program runs from 4-6pm and will be presented by Chris Skelly from the MHC. In addition the Historical Museum in Blackstone will be open from 11-4pm for anyone interested. Jane will RSVP for the group.

8:25 HC Slot for Historic District Committee

Jane suggested we ask the Mendon BOS if we could expand the Historic Commission by 1 Member. She would like to ask Mike Goddard to join and see if he could represent the Commission on the Historic District Committee. The Commission will ask the BOS about adding a member and Jane will talk to Mike Goddard.

8:30pm Motion to Adjourn

Jane moved to adjourn the meeting. Don seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of adjourning. The next meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday September 1, 2015.