



MENDON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

20 Main Street
Mendon, MA 01756
historical@mendonma.gov

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

Meeting Date	January 6, 2015 at 7:00pm
Location	Mendon Town Hall
Status	Approved

7:13 Meeting Opened

Jane Lowell opened the meeting. In attendance: Jane Lowell, Don Colanton and Kathy Schofield.

7:20 Review Meeting Minutes

The Commission reviewed meeting minutes from November 18, 2014. Don moved to approve the minutes as written. Kathy seconded the motion. All members voted to accept the minutes.

7:22 Old Business

Miscoe Springs Update:

Don Colanton reported that it appears Habitech has begun building two homes in the Miscoe Springs development area. Kathy called Bruce Wheeler again to make sure he received the Historical Commission letter sent back in October 2014. She has not received a response.

Kathy made a motion that the Historical Commission request funds from the CPC to hire an architect to prepare a proposal for adaptive reuse of the stone structure at Miscoe Springs. Don seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Jane suggested a letter from the CPC be sent to Mr. Wheeler and his partner Mr. Ahearn once funds were approved. Don will prepare a draft letter on behalf of the CPC. The letter will confirm approval of funds provided Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Ahearn are in agreement that there is willingness on the part of Habitech to actively pursue an adaptive reuse proposal in cooperation with the Historical Commission.

Cox Property 34 George Street:

Jane spoke with Anne Mazar to determine the status of the deed transfer for the house at 34 George Street. Anne suggested the Historical Commission check in with Town Administrator Kim Newman and Bill Ambrosino for an update. Jane will clarify with Kim Newman how the process of placing a preservation restriction on the property will be done and who will be responsible. The Historical Commission will hold the preservation restriction for the house. In addition the Historic Commission will ask to give input in the process on the sale of the property and to develop a plan for the remaining items that were left behind in the house. Jane will ask the Town Administrator to help in determining who owns those items and how they might be recovered if it is determined that the developer has ownership. Family members of the previous owner have expressed concern that with only two hours given to clear out all personal possessions, there may still be items in the home that are relevant to the family.

Town Hall Exit Ramp and Landscaping:

Don Colanton made a motion to ask the CPC for administrative funds to evaluate the parking lot ramp, determine structural soundness of the foundation behind the ramp and prepare an estimate for removal of the ramp. This would return the building to its original condition. Kathy seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. Don Colanton made a motion that the Historical Commission prepare a Position Paper for the Town Hall to reflect and direct the historic preservation of the building. Kathy seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. Jane suggested the Commission collect old photographs and information on modifications that have been done to the building. Don suggested a separate meeting to brainstorm objectives and compile a list that will direct future

improvements to the building.

Update Old Cemetery and Joy Fountain:

Jane and Kathy met again with Tamara Conde from Historic Gravestone Services of New Salem, Ma. She will be repairing the Joy Fountain in the spring. The Historical Commission will request the additional \$1000.00 to finish the repair work on the fountain from CPC administrative funds.

Tamara Conde has recently evaluated the Old Cemetery and is familiar with its restoration needs. She has significant experience in the restoration process and in writing RFP's. The Historical Commission members felt it would be in our best interest to hire someone with experience to prepare an RFP.

Kathy moved to ask the CPC for administrative funds up to \$5000.00 to hire Tamara Conde to prepare an RFP for the Old Cemetery Restoration Project. Don seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

Blackstone Valley Grant Application:

Don Colanton has been reviewing the grant process and application and feels the Olney Cook Shop Educational Project would qualify for this grant. The grant application states that we provide matching funds for the project. Wayne Wagner suggested we use money already spent on improvements and repairs to meet the matching funds.

Don prepared a job description to post. He will contact the two display / exhibit professionals he located and Jane will post on the Mass List Serve for a recommendation from other Historical Commissions.

Historic Sign Boards:

Kathy will check the Historical Commission files to locate the grant money used to pay for the historical house and building plaques. She will compile a list of recipients and report back to the Historical Commission in February with the information.

Master Plan Survey Results:

Member in attendance decided to postpone discussion of the survey results.

10:15 pm Adjourn

Kathy moved to adjourn the meeting. Don seconded the motion. All members voted to adjourn. The next scheduled Historical Commission Meeting will be Tuesday February 3, 2015.