



MENDON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Tom Merolli
Daniel Byer
Kathleen Schofield
Janice Muldoon Moors
Lynne Roberts Chairman

20 Main Street
Mendon, MA 01756

historical@mendonma.gov

MEETING DATE	January 5, 2021
LOCATION	Virtual
STATUS	Approved 5/18/21

PRESENT: Lynne Roberts, Kathy Schofield, Dan Byers, Janice Muldoon Moors, Tom Merolli

GUESTS: None

Meeting opened at 7.06pm

1. CEMETERIES:

Lynne has had no luck in locating a stone company who may be able to rebuild the granite walls at Bicknell Cemetery. Kathy has been trying to contact Mr Braza to see if he can supply us with an estimate for repair. During discussion it was suggested that we should get an evaluation of the entire wall as, in time, the rest of the wall will need repair. It was then discussed that other Cemeteries in Town also need major repair and if we are to start this project, we should look at cemeteries as a whole and not individually.

2. BLIGHT BYLAW

Tom will be reviewing the comments on the Blight Bylaw from the Commission members and creating a second draft based on those comments. It was also discussed that the Commission should look at the International Property Maintenance in use in Medway to handle their blight issues. The issue of enforcement was also discussed and it was agreed that any enforcement would not be easy

3. BLIGHT BY-LAW

The timing of introducing a Blight Bylaw was discussed. Tom had done an excellent job of putting together a draft which was sent to the Fire Chief and to the Building Inspector for their comments. It was felt that more input was needed before this idea was introduced and that many other boards and commissions should be consulted for their opinions before continuing. The current draft could be seen as punitive to homeowners who are currently struggling with the upkeep of their home and is not really addressing the main issue of (vacant) properties being allowed to rot into the ground as a way of bypassing the demolition bylaw. More work has to be done.

4. FY22 BUDGET & TRANSFER OF HISTORICAL FUNDS

Anne Mazar has requested that we supply figures for the upcoming Town Meeting for the transfer of Historical CPA funds. Dan Byer will pull the information together and submit to Anne. There are also funds that were not spent that we would like transferred to our cemetery project rather than be put back in CPA to be requested again.

5. ETHIC TRAINING

Members of the Commission were reminded that Ethics Training had to be carried out, following a reminder from Ellen Agro.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Miscoe Springs Bottling Plant - Kathy Schofield attended a Planning Board Meeting in December where the owner of Miscoe Springs presented an idea for the property which would be residential, multi-family, mixed use. We will wait to hear more but the Commission felt this would be a wonderful proposal and a way of keeping the building in use. We could supply the history of the Plant.

2. Records Room - Kathy has been looking into an MPPF grant for the work that needs to be done on the Records Room. This is much more complicated than originally thought and will not be something that we can complete this year. In order to apply for the Grant, we will need an Engineer to provide a plan for the building (which cannot be paid for through the Grant but would need to be approved by Town Meeting through CPA funds). The suggestion would be to ask the Town for the matching CPA funds for the Engineer. Once we have that and the work is done, we can apply for the Grant. We also need a preservation restriction on the building. This matter is becoming serious as the sump pump is not working and the basement is flooded. This will be a continuing project and will be presented at the November Town Meeting. A future use for the building should also be determined.

Meeting was closed at 8.45pm