



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	February 9, 2021
LOCATION	Virtual
STATUS	Approved 5/18/21

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

GUESTS: Diego Calle – Application for 77 Park Street Demo

Meeting opened at 7.15pm

1. DEMOLITION REQUESTS:

The demolition request was reviewed by the members of the Commission. Kathy Schofield had been in the property several months. It was originally a family home for a gentleman who fought in the Revolutionary War. This property has been on the market for a considerable amount of time and has been bank owned and allowed to fall in total disrepair. This home was in the Daniels family and was, at one time part of the Wiersma Dairy Farm and a commercial spot for the Town. Mr Calle, the applicant advised that the reconstruction of the home would be as a single family and is going to try and replicate the exterior façade. Anything that can be saved will be and reused in the new home. The floors are newer not old or original and the windows and siding are also newer. The Applicant would want to take the home down as soon as possible and start a rebuild. He also agreed to allow members of the Historical Commission to come and do a photo shoot of the interior and exterior of the property. Kathy Schofield also noted that this home is connected to the Daniels Park Street Cemetery. It was discussed that, where historic homes are demolished, the owner could pay for an historic plaque detailing what WAS there. This could be a potential future project for the Historic Commission. Tom Merolli made a Motion to grant the application for demolition without delay, seconded by Dan Byer. Motion was carried unanimously. Mr Calle was advised that he know can start the permit application with the Building Department. Dan would put our decision in Viewpoint.

Discussion continued regarding the possible use of plaques where historic properties had been lost to the Town. Janice suggested linking a QR code on the plaque to the Historic Society website for more information on the property. It was suggested that all historic homes would contain an original photo of the home, QR code, name of family and brief history. The cost could be included in the Demolition Application Fee once granted.

2. CEMETERIES

Lynne advised that she is still looking for a company that might be helpful in repairing the wall. Kathy had still not received a response from Mr Braza who had been asked to submit a cost for the repairs to the walls of the Cemeteries which could be a safety issue in time. Janice also suggested calling Brad Green of Colonial Restorations to see if he could help or give us the name of someone who could.

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 Commission will put in a request to the CPC to fund the engineering plan. 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