



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	August 19, 2021
LOCATION	Remote
STATUS	Approved 9/13/21

PRESENT: Remote Meeting Lynne Roberts, Kathy Schofield, Dan Byer, Janice Muldoon Moors and Tom Merolli

Meeting opened at 7:10 pm

1. Accept Minutes from Previous Meetings

Meeting minutes were reviewed from May, June and July 2021. Kathy moved to accept the minutes as written. Janice seconded the motion. All voted in favor of accepting the minutes.

New Business

2. Cemetery Scavenger Hunt: Janice discussed working on a plan for a Cemetery Scavenger Hunt. She will approach the BVT and Nipmuc Advisors for the National Honor Society and discuss volunteer opportunities for members who may be interested in participating in a workshop on how to set and clean stones. Kathy will reach out to Ruth O'Grady to see if Swandale Cemetery would be a good place to start. Old Cemetery and the Quaker Cemetery have a rich history. Dick Grady and John Trainor have done a lot of research on them and can provide us with information. Kathy will contact the Mencucci's and look into setting up a workshop in the spring. Ideally October would be the best time to host the scavenger hunt

3. Visit with John Nenart on Congdon Property:

Lynne and Kathy met with Mr. Nenart to discuss the proposed plan for the grocery store which will be built where the driving range and mini-golf course is now. According to their plan the Meehan Group would prefer to demolish the Congdon house and Barn and replicate them in their residential plan. Mr. Nenart invited the commission to visit the properties in the future. The commission will further evaluate the impact of losing this property and the impact with respect to the scenic road bylaw. The commission does not support the demolition and asked the developer to consider other options.

4. Letter to property owners of 91 Millville Street

John Dudley has requested a letter be provided to the Burnham's who own 91 Millville Street regarding the decision to allow the demolition of this property back in April 2021. Although Lynne already provided

them with a letter of authorization to move forward with the demolition they are expecting to switch ownership and don't want to be asked to return and apply again for a demolition permit if there is a change of ownership. Lynne will prepare a letter to put this matter to rest.

5. Historic District Commission Update

The Historic District Commission is working on developing guidelines for solar in the historic districts.

6. Demolition Requests

There were no new demolition requests this month

7. Cemeteries and Tree Work

Lynne and Kathy met with Paul Braza to look at the Bicknell cemetery wall again. There has been additional shifting of the top dress stones. There is new bulging on the bottom half of the wall - a result of the extraordinary rainfall this year. Paul will provide us with an accurate quote once his associates get a look at the wall. They believe they will be able to bring the equipment into the cemetery to avoid a police detail. He felt it would take 3 days. They will remove the top stones, repair the lower level and install drainage behind the wall. Due to the new issues we may not have enough CPC funds to cover the wall and complete the tree removal as well. Once the quote comes in we can determine if we need to go back to the voters for additional funding. We are waiting on Alan Tetreault to get a quote for the wall repair at Old Cemetery. He will work on the trees after work at the Town Beach is complete.

8. Lynne Update on Letter to Historic Homeowners

Lynne reported on the promising response from historic homeowners and thanked Dan for setting up a spreadsheet of contacts. She will be following up with the responders as well as those who expressed an interest in joining the commission. She suggested inviting them to come to a meeting to see how the commission works and projects we are involved with.

9. Adding Historic Districts

Kathy reported she worked with Jenn Dougherty who took Chris Skelly's place at Mass Historic (MHC) to develop an outline for the process of establishing a single property historic district. The document includes a checklist for homeowners and district representatives so that it is easier to understand. Kathy reported the District Commission takes the lead on this and the Historic Commission serves in a supporting role. In the case of 6 Bates Street the homeowner can put a letter of intent with the sale information that she is in the process of accomplishing this designation.

10. Proposed Bylaw Changes

Lynne recommended we send the bylaw changes to Mr. Tinio for comments in order to expedite the process and prepare the changes for the STM in November. Once the Commission has had a chance to review those proposed changes the final draft will be prepared and sent to Town Counsel for review. A meeting will be set up to meet with Mr. Tinio and a broader audience to discuss the final draft.

11. Next Meeting

Scheduled for September 13th at 7pm. This meeting will be remote.

Tom moved to adjourn. Janice seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Meeting closed at 8:44pm.