

Wayne Wagner, Chairman
Amy DeWitt, Vice-Chairman
Ellen Wagner



Tony Willoughby
Jane Lowell

TOWN OF MENDON

Historical Commission
Mendon Town Hall
20 Main Street
Mendon, Massachusetts 01756

Meeting Minutes of July 7, 2009 (Approved: August 17, 2009)

Attending: Wayne Wagner, Ellen Wagner, Amy DeWitt, Tony Willoughby, Jane Lowell. Also attending: Bill Ambrosino and Michele Barker.

Meeting was called to order by the chairman at 7:05 p.m. A quorum was reached.

J. Lowell made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 6, 2009 meeting. A. DeWitt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

A. DeWitt stated that she had been going through the DDB steps and identifying what procedures/forms needed to be in place/developed; W. Wagner requested that A DeWitt email this info to the HC members. Action: A. DeWitt to email this information to W. Wagner.

7:07 Discussion with Michele Barker covering a range of issues. Ms. Barker works for The Massachusetts Circuit Rider Program (a partnership of Preservation Massachusetts and the National Trust for Historic Preservation). Ms. Barker explained the following to the Commission:

- Ms. Barker provided information about The Massachusetts Historical Commission
 - The MHC is a resource for legislative questions (for example, questions about the demolition delay bylaw) and best practices of enforcement.
 - They can provide "Survey and Planning" grants.
 - They can provide "Bricks and Mortar" grants. Once a year they accept nominations for the Mass. Preservation Project Fund grant. Applications are accepted in October.
 - The Massachusetts Historical Commission cannot perform advocacy.
 - The Massachusetts Historical Commission maintains the inventory of The Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS: <http://mhc-macris.net>) which is a database of historic properties and areas in the state.
 - The Massachusetts Historical Commission reviews eligibility for the state register of historical places.
- Ms. Barker provided information about Preservation Massachusetts:
 - Preservation Massachusetts is an information and advocacy service.
 - Preservation Massachusetts is a networking resource.
- Ms. Barker provided information about The National Trust for Historic Preservation (www.preservationnation.org):
 - The National Trust is a nonprofit.
 - The National Trust provides the grant that supports the Circuit Rider program.
 - The National Trust can provide some grants. These are intended for "soft costs" (e.g. architectural, engineering, educational)
 - The National Trust can do advocacy.
- Ms. Barker provided information about state and federal tax credits:
 - These credits are for commercial/rental properties only.
 - The Massachusetts Historical Commission is the review authority for state and federal credits.

- The National Trust website (www.preservationnation.org) can provide general information.
- Ms. Barker also explained that there are income tax benefits available for buildings with preservation restrictions. Some towns/cities provide property tax breaks for such properties.

The Commission, Ms Barker and Bill Ambrosino (Mendon Planning Board Chairman) also discussed the state of the Town Hall (Harrison Hall). Mr. Ambrosino wanted to learn if Town Hall was on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Action Item: The Commission told Mr. Ambrosino that it would determine if Town Hall was on the National Registry.

Action Item: A. DeWitt to email Mr. Ambrosino a list of local CPC funded projects.

8:15: J. Lowell asked for assistance drafting an RFP for engineering work to be done on the Cobbler's Shop.
Action item: T. Willoughby agreed to assist.

8:26: T. Willoughby reported that he was approached by Mister Eric Peterson. Mr. Peterson owns 5 Taft Avenue and plans to apply for a demolition permit. He understood that the demolition delay bylaw was not yet approved by the state Attorney General but was information the Historical Commission as a courtesy. T. Willoughby presented the rest of the Commission with a letter to Mr. Peterson explaining that 5 Taft Avenue is not "historically significant", the letter included research on the 5 Taft Avenue deed going back to 1927. The Commission approved the letter.

Action Item: T. Willoughby to mail the letter to Mr. Peterson.

8:30: The Commission discussed a prototype demolition permit application. J. Lowell will work with W. Wagner to develop one. W. Wagner will discuss it with the Building Inspector.

8:37: The money provided by the Community Preservation Committee to pay for part of the Town Hall roof repair requires that a preservation restriction be applied to the property.

Action Item: W. Wagner to follow up with the town administrator.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:50 p.m. by A. DeWitt, seconded by J. Lowell. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Willoughby
Mendon Historical Commission

Items Distributed

None