

# MINUTES

## Longmeadow Historical Commission Meeting Wednesday, October 18, 2018 7:00 pm, in the Adult Center at Greenwood

In Attendance: **Maggy Cohn, Barbara Fitzgerald, Beth Hoff, Jeff Spear, Tim Casey and Steve Weiss**  
Guest: **Marybeth Bergeron**

Called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Minutes from September 13, 2018 approved  
Minutes from September 26 special meeting approved

### **Old Business**

#### **Old Train Station - Town Survey**

Mario said that the proposal to survey the structure has been put out to bid.

#### **Collaboration with East Longmeadow – 125 years since our split**

Steve has contacted the East Longmeadow Historical Commission spokesperson and is waiting for a call back.

#### **Tom Higgins and his book about Longmeadow**

There is an author event scheduled for 6:30 p.m., November 27th at Storrs Library.

#### **The Barns of Longmeadow**

Beth has been communicating with Greg Farmer, a historical consultant about surveying the barns.

Maggy and Beth have been in touch with Shannon Walsh, Historic Preservation Planner, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

Maggy has spoken with Stephen Crane about the barns in Longmeadow. He said the town would help send out letters once the barns are surveyed and dates are established.

Beth explained that there are 23 barns listed on the Historical Commission website. The list of barns on the Historical Commission site does not include owners. The addresses should be checked against the assessors database. Then the information should be checked with the Board of Assessors Office to see if there have been any changes that are not shown on the online assessors database.

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Shannon Walsh of the PVPC reported that Longmeadow had a lot of Local Technical Assistance hours and that she would be glad to help the Historical District Commission survey the barns. She estimated that LTA historic preservation hours totalling 22.5 would be adequate. This information was forwarded and discussed with Stephen Crane. He said that the town planned to use the LTA hours on other projects, but asked if they were just for historical purposes. When asked, Shannon said that yes, the LTA hours were only for historical consultation. Longmeadow had other technical assistance hours available for other uses. This information was forwarded to Stephen Crane but he has not responded yet. Maggy will follow up with him on this matter.

If we can not use these LTA hours, then we will need to apply for both CPC money and state survey money. The deadlines are approaching. Maggy will ask Shannon how to proceed with this project and if she has any form letters that would be helpful for us to use.

### **Building Demolition Delay**

The site inspection of the Paige barn by the Demolition Delay Committee showed that it is a beautiful, large barn which is very interesting inside. Two realtors and the seller, Peter Cooney, participated in this visit.

A public hearing was held on October 17th concerning the Paige barn on Ely Road. There was an audience of about 14 people not counting the committee. The voting procedure for the committee was clarified at the beginning of the hearing. Committee member Beth Hoff reported that Town Counsel had advised that the Demolition Delay Committee did not have the authority to require a supermajority vote; therefore, a simple majority would determine vote results. After hearing comments from the public, the committee voted 5 to 1 **NOT** to evoke the 9 month demolition delay.

The Historical Commission members discussed the bylaw in light of last night's meeting. Dave brought up a concern about how a tie would be handled. Any changes to the committee's make-up or activities would require a bylaw change that would need to be approved/disapproved at a town meeting.

A suggestion was made to inform the Hampden County Realty Board about the demolition delay bylaw and the information available on the Historical Commission Website.

### **Historical Commission/Historic District Commission – Bylaws**

Tim expects that the Historic District Commission to vote on the revised bylaws at their next meeting on Nov. 13. Rules governing pools held up the vote at the Historic District's last meeting.

### **44 Birnie Road Investigation –follow-up**

Beth checked in the assessors records in the town hall vault and could not find any more information about who was living at this address. No one was listed from 1915 back to the 1894. The need for a title search was mentioned. Steve will try to go to the Hampden County Registry of Deeds. We are trying to determine if it is historically significant and if it is worth saving. At this time it appears that the house is not architecturally significant or geographically significant

### **Ghosts in the Graveyard – reaction to new format**

Sell out event. Very good reviews.

Report from the Historical Society

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### **Upcoming events**

Oct 19 & 31 and Nov 10 Storrs House open

Oct 24 - Peddler's Pack of Spooky Tales

Nov. 10 - Andrea Taupier will do an architectural tour on th Green from 2-4

Women suffragists exhibit and speaker coming in April

New Business

### **Colony Acres Sidewalks and Repaving Project**

Maggy has driven through there recently and it appears that work has stopped for now. Maggy spoke with Stephen Crane concerning this project and the lack of communication surrounding it. Maggy reminded him that the Commission needs to be consulted about projects in historically significant areas. Maggy will suggest to Stephen that he come to a Commission meeting once a year to let us know what projects are in the planning stages or assign someone else to come to a meeting.

Beth would like to request some guidance from the Massachusetts Historic Commission about how much the town can do in a National Historic District without consulting the Massachusetts Historic Commission or other historic organizations.

### **Mailbox contents**

Form for Mass Historical Commission to apply for grant money. This depends somewhat on the availability of PVPC hours.

There was a copy of a letter from the Public Archaeology Laboratory to Brona Simon (State Historic Preservation Officer, State Archaeologist, Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission) concerning the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company Longmeadow Meter Station Project. Beth suggested that this project needs a section 106 review because the Longmeadow Country Club is eligible for the National Register. Tim will ask representatives of the Longmeadow Country Club if they are aware of the club's status in terms of historic significance.

### **Longmeadow Street Historic District – Curb Cuts**

Another example of a town project that should have been presented to the Historic District and the Historical Commission for review prior to its initiation.

Any other New Business

Next Meeting, November 15

Adjourn 8:59 p.m.

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