

**Minutes**  
**Longmeadow Historical Commission Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 20, 2021**  
**7:00 pm, via ZOOM**

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm. In attendance: Maggy Cohn, Tim Casey, Dave Marinelli and Tom King. Minutes from April 15, 2021, were approved.

**Old Business**

North Longmeadow Street Intersection Improvements – no new news. Jeff McAlman is the new DPW head.

Massachusetts Historical Commission, Survey of Pre-1901 Structures – we have received all the reports from Heritage Consulting. We continued our discussion of the feasibility of changing the build date (the trigger for the Demolition Delay Bylaw) for historically significant structures from the current 1901 to a date that would include many houses built in the ‘street-car suburb era’. This would include properties designed by some significant architects that we would like to save. Tim has been putting the reports into a Google Maps ‘layer’ so that the information is available to anyone looking at these properties. Tim also pointed out that since the Demolition Delay Bylaw was put into effect (2006), the availability of information on the internet has increased. Tom (an experienced grant writer) suggested using a Summer Intern to copy and mail the survey reports to the respective home owners as a way to disseminate the information.

The Old Town Hall on Longmeadow Street – Dave and Maggy toured the facility with Marybeth Bergeron and Nick Georgantas on April 30. It needs many repairs and upgrades. Marybeth had sent us a link to a 2008 study which described everything needed to bring the building up to code. Some of that work has been completed. Dave and Nick ball-parked the cost as anywhere from \$200K to \$500K. Nick is to send us some current estimates for the most pressing items. I called Bari at Parks and Rec to get an idea of the usage of the facility but I had not received a response before this meeting. Tim will check to see if the American Legion is still using the building for its meetings or if they will be moving to the new Adult Center. Dave wondered if the new Center will be used by other groups and therefore the Town may not need this building and would it become surplus space. If so, we may be interested in reaching out to some organization such as Habitat for Humanity to see if they could use the property.

280 Longmeadow Street – no news.

The Historical Society – according to Tim it is OK to give the Society the Dropbox links to the Pre-1901 Surveys from Heritage Consulting per Beth Hoff’s request. Also, They will be presenting, through the Library, a program about JFK 1937-1945, on May 26.

New Members – always seeking.

1607 Longmeadow Street – the auction on May 4, was unsuccessful. We are waiting for a listing to appear with a Real Estate agent.

**New Business**

The Mail Box – nothing

*The mission of the Longmeadow Historical Commission is to identify, preserve and educate the Town about its unique heritage.*

Section 106 Review – Birnie Road, Tina Lane, Pondsides Road – I wrote a letter to Patricia Leavenworth at the MASSDot (copy attached) stating that we had no objection to the project as described. However, if anything changed, or an archaeological artifact was encountered during the project, we need to be advised. Per Dave, Pondsides Road was originally excavated in 1884-5 and the human remains that were found there are now located at the Peabody Museum at Harvard University. Artifacts have been found in the area from time to time. Per Tim, the river has moved over time and has uncovered old burial grounds.

#### Other New Business

- 1) Longmeadow History in the School Curriculum – Tim would like to bring this project back to our attention. Currently, local history is taught mainly in third grade. There is some taught in 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades within the scope of American History. Our first step is to determine what is currently being taught and does it include disadvantaged groups. Tom will get a ‘pulse’ on what teachers anticipate they will be doing for the upcoming academic year. Next, we should draft a letter to Marty O’Shea, outlining our ideas. Then we should consult the teachers to see what they are using now in their instruction and where they could use our help.
- 2) Old Train Station (old DPW offices) – definitely a Pre-1901 structure, 1884 actually. The proposal to rebuild it to the original specifications came in at approximately \$500K. Tim has proposed donating the building but does not think there are enough good parts to work with. Dave proposed we repurpose the slate roof and any copper in the building. We await the pulling of the Demolition permit.

Our Next Meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2021 – Dave will try to schedule it at the Fire Station since the COVID State of Emergency is ending on June 15, 2021, and we may be able to meet in person by then (!!).

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margaret Cohn, Chair  
Longmeadow Historical Commission

May 20, 2021

Massachusetts Department of Transportation  
Attn: Patricia Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer  
Ten Park Plaza  
Boston, MA 02116

Subject: Longmeadow Improvements at Fannie Stebbins Wildlife Refuge (609205) Project Notification Form  
Ref: Letter dated April 16, 2021 to Ms. Brona Simon from Jeffrey Shrimpton

Dear Ms. Leavenworth,

We have reviewed the above referenced letter outlining the subject project. It appears that the work will be on roadways that are already established and will not disturb areas beyond these boundaries. Therefore, we do not have any objection to the project as proposed. Please let us know when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be evaluating the project.

However, please be advised that, if the current project area or scope of work are changed or if cultural or archaeological artifacts are encountered during construction, appropriate information should be provided to our Commission for further review and comment. There should be someone present on the work crew who has the authority to make the decision that further study is necessary.

In addition, on the Project Notification Form itself, please correct the Project Description (narrative) to describe the location of the work as between the Connecticut River and I-91. I-93 is located in New Hampshire which is not near us.

Sincerely,

Margaret Cohn, Chair  
Longmeadow Historical Commission

cc: Brona Simon, State Preservation Officer  
Jeffrey Shrimpton, Cultural Resources Supervisor  
Lyn Simmons, Town Manager

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