

Minutes
Longmeadow Historical Commission Meeting
Thursday, September 9, 2021
7:00 pm, via ZOOM

Meeting called to order at 7:08 pm. In attendance: Maggy Cohn, Tim Casey, Dave Marinelli, Tom King, Steve Weiss and our newest member, Jerold Duquette.

Minutes from May 20, 2021, were approved. We did not have a meeting in June. We scheduled a meeting for July but did not have a quorum so there was no business conducted at that time. We did not have a meeting in August.

Old Business

The Old Town Hall on Longmeadow Street - Lena Vellituro, Longmeadow's Director of Veterans' Services, and Earl Godfrey from the American Legion Post 175, joined our meeting to discuss the need for the Old Town Hall by the veterans service organizations. Tim had contacted Representative Neal's office to get information on possible Federal aid to help fix the condition of the building. Per their response, this is not an option as we are not a needs based town. Another suggestion is converting part of the building into veteran housing which might get us some federal money and bypass some of the repair issues. Steve, as CPC chair, touted the availability of CPC funds for affordable housing in this regard. Per Tim, this might be a back-up alternative in case federal funds are not available. He also suggested we may want to talk with Ronald Manseau of the Housing Authority for advice. Tom King volunteered to research and write any Grants for which we may want to apply. Dave asked Lena and Earl to detail how the Veterans wish to use the Old Town Hall. Earl described how Post 175 was chartered in 1919 and was a very active Post meeting here for a long time. Although not active in the recent past, the Post has become revitalized and the Longmeadow Veterans Council has also become viable again. Both of these organizations are very meaningful to the veterans of Longmeadow and are looking to provide a safe space and family-oriented activities for these men and women. Per Lena, they would like to accomplish a dual objective; to stabilize a historical town structure and create a center of community spirit with veterans at its core. Tom suggested we may want to check out MASS Save. We would need to show strong community support for a project. Dave noted that the town has recently hired an Assistant Town manager whose responsibility is to write grants so we should utilize that resource. We decided on the following tasks for our next meeting: get the numbers from Nick Georgantis for the repair estimates (me), Lena would investigate the possibility of using the building for temporary/emergency housing, and Tom would rough out a draft grant request by researching who we have to contact and what information do we have to come up with.

North Longmeadow Street Intersection Improvements – the gas mains are being replaced (summer work). The engineers are preparing the 75% plans. We are still trying to determine which trees will need to be removed and replaced.

Massachusetts Historical Commission, Survey of Pre-1901 Structures – we have not received any word from MHC on the status of their review of Phase III materials. Tim has been working on embedding the information we have received from Heritage into the Google Map layer. Our next step will be getting post 1901 properties (as verified by the completed surveys) off our list, and getting the 1 new property onto the list. Tim also proposed sending letters out to the homeowners advising them of the historic status of their homes. Tim has discovered that there are about 10 properties that do not have sufficient documentation and need to be surveyed. Then we continued our discussion of the suggestion (by Heritage) that we adjust the trigger date of the demo delay by-law to 1931. This would use the Depression as the defining construction date. This would involve about 1,000 properties. If we back up to either 1921 or even 1911 these would be more manageable groups. Tim will work on figuring the numbers for each increment.

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

280 Longmeadow Street – no news.

The Historical Society – during the Library Book Sale on October 1-3, the Society will be hosting Architectural Tours and the Storrs House will be open with new exhibits. Ghosts in the Graveyard will be a ticketed event on October 9.

New Members – we still have one seat available!

1607 Longmeadow Street – there was an interested party but the bank refused the offer. There is a 3-D tour of the house on Realtor.com.

Longmeadow History in the School Curriculum – Tim; no news

Old Train Station – no demo permit has been pulled yet.

New Business

The Mail Box – nothing

Town Meeting – The Town did a review of all its by-laws. The Historical Commission needs to have its own now that the Historic District Commission has been disentangled from the original bylaw. Tim presented the Proposed creation of Town By-Law 2-810 to us. We voted and passed, unanimously, the by-law as presented. Tim will send it to Mike Barbieri and Kathy Ingraham.

Other New Business

- 1) Josh Levine is our liason to the Select Board.
- 2) Be sure to attend the mandatory Open Meeting Law training session.

Our Next Meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2021

Meeting Adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Cohn, Chair
Longmeadow Historical Commission