

Meeting Minutes Longmeadow
Historical Commission Tuesday,
November 18, 2021

The Longmeadow Historical Commission met on November 18, 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom.

Present from the HC were: Tim Casey, Maggy Cohn, Jerrold Duquette, Dave Marinelli, Steve Weiss, Tom King and Bret Lukezic. Also present was Josh Levine.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM

The minutes from the October 21, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.

1. Old Business
 - a) North Longmeadow Street Intersection Improvements
 - a. No Update
 - b) Pre-1901 Survey by Heritage Consulting
 - a. Update on phase 3
 - i. The Massachusetts Historical Commission has responded to Maggy and said they will provide a timeline for when the Longmeadow Historical Commission will need to review the surveys.
 - ii. The scope of the review should be to make sure we have all the properties surveyed that we asked for and ensure there are no glaring factual or grammatical errors. Any errors or missing reports will be reported to MHC. We would also like Heritage to make recommendations in their final report regarding changing the Demolition Delay Date to a later date.
 - iii. Dave Marinelli drafted a [letter](#) to send to [property owners](#) of the structures set to be removed from the demolition delay list along with a copy of Heritage's surveys. The draft was unanimously approved.
 1. The letter will be sent out after the completion of phase 4
 - b. Moving Demo Delay date
 - i. The current consensus will be to wait until the surveys for the properties built between 01/01/1901 and 12/31/1910 be completed and then evaluate if the Historical Commission would support a change in the date from 1901 to 1911. If the change was supported by the HC, it would be referred to the Building Demolition Committee who would need to vote yes in order to bring it forward to town meeting. If town meeting approved the measure, the demolition delay date would be moved.

- ii. Tim Casey suggested that the maximum date that the HC should advocate for moving the demolition delay date up to was 1931 which coincided with the onset of the Great Depression.
- c. New survey for additional properties
 - [Tom King](#) has prepared an application that he will submit on behalf of the Historical Commission to the Community Preservation Committee to obtain funding for these new surveys. Tom will reach out to Heritage Consulting to get an estimate for this work. The structures up for evaluation are ones that either do not have any substantial documentation and were built before 1901 or structures built between 01/01/1901 and 12/31/1910. In total 50 properties will be surveyed if the grant is approved.
- c) The Old Town Hall on Longmeadow Street
 - a. No update. We will remove this item until the reorganization and restaffing of the DPW is complete.
- d) 280 Longmeadow Street
 - a. No update. We will remove this item until we hear more.
- e) Historical Society
 - a. Giving Tuesday is Dec 7, 2021 and the society is focusing on fundraising at the moment. The last presentation in collaboration with the Storrs' library for 2021 is a presentation about education in one room school houses.
- f) New Member
 - a. Brett Lukezic has joined the HDC but still needs to be sworn in. He will take care of it before the next meeting.
- g) 1607 Longmeadow Street
 - a. Al McKee, the president of the Longmeadow Historical Society met Maggy Cohn and her husband Dan to tour the Jabez Colton house on Friday November 12th. Al believes that the house underwent a major renovation in the 1860s where a chimney stack was taken down and in its place was built a stairway. All the rooms got updated including the mouldings and doors. He noted though the period door knobs and latches have been removed. By examining the interruptions in the floorboards he was able to tell where the original hearths formerly were. The home still has its original corner post covers and covers over the top plate as it goes through the front rooms. The northwest parlor may have its original lower wall paneling on the north wall.
 - b. Maggy was notified by the realtor selling the home that there was another interested party that was willing to offer more than she and Dan were.
 - c. Tim Casey believes that the buyer the realtor was speaking of was Olivia Mercandante Alexandru and Matei Alexandru. They had been given Tim's contact information by the Historical Society and he provided them with an explanation of the historical by-laws that govern

the house and provided them information about some tax credits they may be eligible to receive if they restore the house.

- d. [Tom King](#) contacted “This Old House” and while there were no limits due to location they would need to know the budget of the homeowner and the homeowner would need to pay for it out of pocket.
- e. Conde Nast is going to create a youtube video of the house.
- h) Town Meeting/By-law wording
 - a. The articles to establish the Longmeadow Historical Commission under MGL Chapter 40 Section 8D and adopt by-law 2-810 for this commission were unanimously passed at the November 2, Special Town Meeting. This ends the process to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Longmeadow Historical Commission and the Longmeadow Historic District Commission in the by-laws.
- i) Eversource
 - a. Since the last meeting, Tim has informed the Select Board, Town Manager and Town Counsel of the concerns the Historical Commission has about the potential negative impact the proposed pipeline could have on the town’s historical resources. The commission will wait until the pipeline route is finalized before taking further action.
- j) Old Train station
 - a. Tim and Steve contacted Lyn Simmons the town manager to get an update on the status of the building now that the DPW has moved out. Lyn informed Steve and Tim that the town plans to put the demolition contract out to bid over the winter. Steve and Tim subsequently asked if it were possible for the Town to pull the demolition permit before a demolition contract was awarded. Lyn responded that she would need to ask Paul Healey, the Building Commissioner if that was a possibility. They agreed that if the permit was able to be pulled ahead of a contract being awarded, the town would do so for the Building Demolition Committee’s December 2021 meeting. If it was not possible, Tim and Steve would follow up on the status of the process in April and report back at that time.

2. New Business

- a) Mailbox There was nothing in the Mailbox.

3. Next Meeting, December 9, 2021, at 7:00 pm, via ZOOM. The New Adult Center will not be available for evening activities until January.

4. Adjourn 8:57 PM