

Town of Maynard  
MAYNARD HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING  
Tuesday, April 16, 2019

Meeting called to order by Jack MacKeen at 6:38pm at the Maynard Public Library Trustees' Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jack MacKeen, Paul Boothroyd, Ellen Duggan, Peg Brown, Lee Caras, John Brandon, Priscilla Sandberg and Brion Berghaus. Guests: Jeremy Robichaud, Dave Griffin, Frank Ignachuk, Dick Downey, and Sara Lundberg.

SPECIAL TOPIC: Conversation with guests regarding a permanent home for the Maynard Historical Society collections

Dave - The current space of 1800 square feet at the Mill is used for archiving activities, with no room for display. The most recent proposal for space (April '18) estimated ideal square footage at 5000. The Mill has donated space to the Historical Society for about a dozen years.

Ellen - it's time for the Mill to donate space, and for the Selectmen and Town Administrator Greg Johnson to see the Collections. Could we partner with Epsilon? Would the Mill allow a pop-up museum for the 150th celebrations?

Jeremy - the Library will have some space for the 150th.

Jack - other possible locations for a pop-up might be the Bank of America building, Walgreen's building, Stretches' Tavern (Peg), or the basement of Town Hall (Ellen).

Jack asked Sara about the Arlington Historical Society. 50% of funding comes from trust funds, with the remainder from grants. She emphasized the importance of a climate-controlled collection space. She also said that the Society was viewed primarily as a benefit to local residents, and not as an entity contributing to the economic development of Arlington. Jack noted that the Maynard Historical Society collection is valuable to groups beyond local residents, such as former Digital Equipment Corporation employees, and to a variety of people who trace their immigrant roots to the Town. Dave cautioned on the general public's enthusiasm for "old stuff".

In summary, Jack said that a current proposal should be drawn up and that Town administration should be asked for support so that the Society's approach to the Mill or other entity will command greater authority. He emphasized engaging various groups about both short-term and long-term needs of the Collection and of the Collection's economic value—that the Mill is the biggest part of the Town's history and that the Mill enterprise was and is about the contributions made by townspeople. He said that Maynard and the Mill constitute an entire ecosystem and a microcosm of the Industrial Revolution. Dick echoed the need to talk to Town administration about what the Society is trying to achieve. All guests left the meeting at 7:45pm.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Jack made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 19 meeting. Seconded by Priscilla. Paul made a correction to the minutes, stating that 165 Main Street was the oldest wooden Mill building (not the oldest wooden house) in Maynard. Minutes approved.

Historical plaques and markers:

Ellen has had no response yet from the Finnish Church regarding a marker.

She did report progress, however, on an historical marker for the Mill. She and Lee met with the U Mass honor student program co-ordination at the Mill to tour parts of the site and to share visuals of

millworkers. The plan is to involve students in the design and production of the historical markers. Jack said that both Mass Cor and SignLogics could build stands for markers, and pending approval at Town Meeting, the Commission's budget will be \$2,500 which will more than cover the marker project at the Mill. Mock-ups should be shown to the Mill and a contribution requested.

Ellen agreed that funds for the marker at St. Bridget's Cemetery could be drawn from her gift monies. A sketch needs to be done and a quote from SignLogics obtained. A marker for 10 Percival Street will also be funded through her gift.

MACRIS Phase #3: Kathy Broomer will be providing CDs of draft inventory forms completed to date for review. She will also be sending an invoice for this work.

#### NEW BUSINESS

The 150th anniversary kickoff event is planned for April 25 at Battleroad Brewery in Mill Building #5.

Historical plaques currently placed on 116 and 118 Powdermill Road and at 115 Main Street, the former Gruber Brothers building: Do they remain on the buildings regardless of who owns the buildings? Jack said the contract signed by an owner should state that the plaque stays with the building. He will remind Bill Nemser, Town Planner, that the Gruber Brothers plaque must be kept and re-displayed if the building is demolished.

Ellen and Peg suggested a marker for the new fire station with a brief history of Amory's Grove.

CPC funding: Ellen said that the next round of funding will be in late August/early September. The group was asked for ideas about possible new projects.

#### OTHER

Paul said that he wanted help with sorting out three boxes of historical materials dating from before 1971. The boxes contain a mix of Historical Society and Historical Commission materials.

A motion to adjourn at 8:35pm was made by Priscilla and seconded by Ellen. Approved.

NEXT MEETING will be May 21, 2019, at the Library at 6:30pm