

Town of Maynard
MAYNARD HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, November 19, 2019

Meeting called to order by Jack MacKeen at 6:35pm in Room 202, Maynard Town Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jack MacKeen, Ellen Duggan, Lee Caras, Paul Boothroyd, Priscilla Sandberg and Ann Gibson. Absent: Peg Brown, John Brandon, Brion Berghaus and John Courville.

Jack made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 15 meeting. It was seconded by Ellen and approved.

CURRENT TOPICS

Plaques and Markers:

Paul has agreed to deliver markers to the Asa Smith House, the Lucius Maynard (“Gibson”) House and to the Lorenzo Maynard residence on Dartmouth Street. Ellen proposed that additional markers for the Finnish Church and St. Bridget’s Parsonage be funded by this fiscal year’s budget. She made a motion that the Commission authorize the production of such markers pending property owners’ approval. Seconded by Jack and approved.

Historic Markers for the Mill:

Ellen displayed early-version mockups of six boards. Their themes were Early Maynard, Assabet Mills, the American Woolen Mill, Maynard Industries & the beginning of DEC, the DEC (Digital) Years, and Clock Tower Place/Mill & Main. Discussion followed.

Social Media Presence for MHC:

Priscilla reported that she is posting something about the Commission every other week on Facebook. Ellen suggested that we could pose Town history questions and answers on the page for the Sesquicentennial year.

MACRIS inventory:

No action to report.

Projects for the Sesquicentennial:

Ellen described some of the details of the 150th anniversary opening celebration next April 19. Ellen and Priscilla reported that plans are coming together for an historical calendar, which is a fundraiser to be co-sponsored by the Commission and the Maynard Historical Society. Upfront costs will be funded by the 150th Planning Committee. Production is planned for December, if possible. Jack suggested that the calendar have a 16-month format.

CPC funding:

Finnish Church Mill curfew bell: Jack met with Jerry Beck, director of ArtSpace, regarding an estimate for moving, storing and displaying the bell. Cost will probably run about \$20,000. Ellen has not yet been able to have an expert look at the bell. It does ring. CPC is aware of issues that need to be resolved prior to funding. Ellen will get a copy of the church’s agreement to donate the bell to the Town.

St. Bridget Cemetery Sign:

MassCor will pour the base and mount the sign this week. Ellen said she was pleased with Jack's ability to work with that group to get the installation completed.

Coolidge School RFP:

Civico will be the developer of condos there. They intend to make use of historic tax credits. The project is estimated to cost the developer more than two million dollars.

NEW TOPICS

Our Five-Year Plan:

The current plan needs to be updated at the January meeting. Everyone should bring a list of their priorities. A focus might be on developing educational programs for children. Also we might consider how to connect our Commission regionally. Paul suggested we might do a joint program with Sudbury and Stow for the 150th year. Jack said that an historic preservation report needs to be written.

FY2012 Budget Request:

Jack completed the request for \$2,500. Funding will be used to 1) continue developing the historical marker program and other historically significant signage, 2) identify potential National Register properties and 3) update and convert current paper-based historic walking tours to an app format. Ann Gibson wants to work on this.

106 Powdermill Road:

The Powdermill Superintendent's house is for sale. The house is on the list of properties subject to the Town's Demolition-Delay bylaw. Action may need to be taken by the Commission.

OTHER

Maynard's "Scenic Roads":

Lee described the history of the Town's designation of scenic roads and their locations. She hopes to tour those areas with Paul when he is available to meet.

Walking the Town Bounds:

Dec. 6 is the date proposed for walking the bounds with Town Conservation officer, Kaitlin Young.

Maynard Time Capsules:

Paul said that one at ArtSpace and one at the Coolidge School need to be located for the 150th celebration.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

NEXT MEETING will be Tuesday, January 21, 2020, at the Maynard Library at 6:30pm.