

Town of Maynard  
MAYNARD HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING  
Tuesday, November 17, 2009 - Maynard Public Library - Cullen Conference Room

Meeting called to order by Peg Brown at 7:00.

**Members Present:** Peg Brown, Lee Caras, Jack MacKeen and Dave Griffin

**Public:** Steven Korbet

**Acceptance of meeting minutes** from the October 20th Meeting: Motion made to accept the minutes as recorded by Jack. Dave seconded the motion. Unanimous acceptance of the minutes.

Peg thanked Steven for his bringing attention to the loss of traditional properties for the Walgreen's project.

**Budget/Stabilization Fund** - Peg talked with Town Admin about a line item. Not likely at this point until we create a stable program for certificates, etc. Lee believes there are small, awareness-oriented projects. We will need to create an itemization of how we we plan to spend these initial funds.

Motion by Jack to request \$750 from the Community Stabilization Fund at the 2010 Annual Town Meeting, seconded by Lee; affirmed unanimously.

**Historical Placemarkers** - General discussion on the progress of determining the top 20 and other MACRIS-level surveys. We have a deadline of the Feb meeting if we want to get a Town Meeting Warrant Article on a second phase of the survey.

**Certificate Awards Guidelines** - Target is to draft them in the January meeting. Members are to send Peg their ideas for criteria so she can collate them for the next meeting.

**Boston Post Cane** - With the passing of Dorothy Barlow, the cane needs to pass to the oldest citizen. Peg believes she knows who that is and will work with the Board of Selectmen, who are tasked with awarding the cane. Dave will work on a framed certificate and see if the Historical Society will fund a pin.

**"Top 20" Project** - Lee updated the Commission on her progress with the identification of the historic buildings / neighborhoods / monuments. Everyone expressed their delight with the progress to date. Jack suggested that we refine the list by creating tiers to further help bring attention to certain items or categories. (Lee's work in progress is included as Attachment A.)

**Plaques Program** - Lee did a bit of research. A \$60 plaque seems to be a very reasonable price.

Lee noted that an occasional newspaper article on the commission's progress and activities would be good. The cemetery mapping project is in hibernation for the winter. Peg will bring interim materials to a future meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Jack, 2nd by Dave. Meeting adjourned at 8:43pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Griffin, Clerk

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Attachment "A" - From Lee Caras

**The Fabric of Maynard  
Historic Family Properties, Neighborhoods and Commercial Structures**

What became the town of Maynard had its beginnings in the farms of the early homesteaders. The Assabet River flows through the area. Its abundant water power made mills possible, and they shaped a town that showcased the energy of the industrial revolution. The land, the river and the people were and are intimately bound together in the story of the town's development. Maynard's historic family properties, neighborhoods and structures reflect the complex character of the town then and now. Some of the early families no longer have local descendants. Most neighborhoods no longer boast a particular ethnic identity. Many early buildings, bridges and stoneworks have burned or crumbled. Others have been altered beyond recognition. Still others are currently threatened with demolition. The town is ever-changing, and this will be and should be so. Nevertheless it is the view of the Maynard Historical Commission that Maynard's past is not only what has been. We believe that the past provides the fundamental grounding of our present sense of what the Maynard community is now and what it might become in the future.

The Brown Family Land Grant (before 1650) and Parmenter/Marble/Whitney Families Foundation remains of the homestead of the 200-acre William Brown farm  
George F. Brown house (c.1830) at 93 Acton Street

The Smith Family including Asa and sons Haman, Levi, Asa and William, and Haman's sons Benjamin, George, Dexter and Asa  
Levi Smith house (c. 1770) at 178 Great Road/Red Fox Inn, 1816-48  
Asa Smith house (1780) at 84 Summerhill Road. His saw, grist and cider mill (1816) was on Mill Street  
William Smith house (c.1780) at 206-208 Great Road, later the "poor farm"  
George Smith house (c. 1785) at 38 Great Road  
Asa Dexter Smith house (late 18th c./c.1840's) at 40 Concord Street  
Jonathan Smith house (c. 1810) at 174 Great Road  
Haman Smith house (1830-57) at 36 Great Road  
Benjamin Smith house (1860) at 12/14 Pine Street (son of Haman Smith)  
Ben Smith bridge and dam (c.1846)  
Mrs. Smith's Girls' School (1848), moved to 166 Great Road

The Maynard Family  
Lucius Maynard house (c.1835) at 114 Summer Street, the former Gibson farmstead (included Summer Hill)  
Amory Maynard's 2nd house (pre 1873) at 145 Main Street. He and William Knight established the Assabet Manufacturing Company (1862-1899)  
Lorenzo Maynard's 1st house at 147 Main Street; his 2nd (1877) was at 9 Dartmouth Street, the "hill area". He gave the clock to the Assabet Mills in 1892  
The Maynard [Masonic] Block (c.1888) at 98-100 Main Street was built by Lorenzo  
Amory Maynard, II, house ( ) moved from Nason/Main to Bancroft Street in 1935  
Altered: The Old Brick Schoolhouse (c.1789) at 101 Summer Street was attended by the Maynard family and other early families to 1872. Land donated by Charles Randall whose house ( ) is at 20 Concord Street  
The Union Congregational Church (1852) at Nason/Main Streets was built by the family on land they donated. Lorenzo donated the church's stained glass windows  
Maynard family tomb at Glenwood Cemetery  
Lucius Maynard donated a stone watering trough (1891), now located by the fire station

The Brooks Family  
Early settlers in Stow  
Silas Brooks house (c. 1764) at 88-90 Summer Street (at Summerhill Road)

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Thomas Brooks house (1830-57) at 50-52 Summer Street

Powdermill Village Area (The American Powder Co. of Acton, an early mill)  
Mill superintendent's house (e.19thc.) at 106 Powdermill Road  
Workers' cottages (e.19thc.) at 116 and 118 Powdermill Road

Maynard Paper Mill (once at Parker Street at Waltham)  
Began in the 1820s  
William Parker house (c.1800) now at 9 Elm Street

The Mill/Assabet River Complex

The Mill buildings (1847-54 dates for the earliest ones), the clocktower and clock (c. 1892 the oldest working hand-wound clock in the US), the millpond, the canal and gatehouse (1846-7), and the Ben Smith dam (1846) THREATENED WITH REMOVAL BY THE US ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS, all bounded by Main Street, Walnut Street, Hillside and Great Roads. As the Assabet Manufacturing Company, housing for millworkers was built (1862-75) on many streets nearby, both tenements and single family dwellings (Railroad, Front, River, Sudbury, Elm, and Pine Streets, et. al., and Florida Court) and later in the "New Village" area, the Presidentials (1918). many were built by E. B. Ward of Worchester. Managers' homes were 1st built in the neighborhood of Lincoln and Maple Streets

Millworkers' Housing: the Russian, Polish, Lithuanian Community  
Housing (1902) at Florida Court

Holy Annunciation Russian Orthodox Church (1916) at 15 Prospect Street  
Demolished: International Co-operative Association (1911) at 15-17 Main Street, the "Higgins Block"  
Gone: St. Casimir's Church, once in the remodeled powerhouse at 65 Great Road

Millworkers' Housing: the Finnish Community

Housing (...) in the Elmwood/Fairfield/Hillside Street area, and River and Elm Streets  
Altered: Sauna (...) on Riverbank Road  
United Co-operative Society (1907) at 54-58 Main Street, the "Cannon Block"  
Finnish Congregational Church (1923) at Walnut/Thompson Streets with curfew bell once at the Mill  
Demolished: Parker Hall (1908-09) at 9 Parker Street

Millworkers' Housing: the English, Scottish, Irish Community

Housing in the Sudbury Street tenements (1885) and in the Pine Street rowhouses (1857- 75)  
St Bridget's Church (c.1881) at 78 Percival Street, and its fieldstone-entranced cemetery on Great  
Road  
St. George's Episcopal Church (1895-97) at Summer Street FOR SALE

Mill Managers' and other Prominent Maynard Businessmen's Homes

Homes on Maple and Lincoln Streets (1870s), the "300s". Amory and Lorenzo Maynard owned a number of these lots in 1870  
Altered: W. B. Case house (1875) at 4 Maple Street  
Thomas Hillis house (1899) at Summer Street (a Boston attorney)  
Jeannette and J. Fairchild ("Fay") Graham (1916) at 32 Great Road (a mill manager)

Major Business Buildings

Altered: Riverside Hall (1860's) at 115 Main Street, now Greuber Bros. furniture store  
Altered: CM&H Powerhouse and Car barn (1901/1918 rebuilt) at 65 Great Road  
Demolished: Union Hall (1857) 1st at Main/summer Streets, then at 15-17 Main Street  
Demolished: Riverside Co-op (late 1860's) at 40-54 Nason Street  
Colonial Hall (c.1914) at 69 Main Street (the "Woolworth Building" with sidewalk tile name)  
The Fowler Block (1917) at 74-76 Main Street  
W. B. Case Block (1901) at 28-30 Nason Street

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Maynard Trust Company (1913) at 81 Main Street  
Altered: Peoples Theater (1921) at 14 Nason  
Erickson's Dairy and Ice Cream Stand (1937-38) at 10 Great Road

Schools and Churches

Altered: Old Nason Street School (c.1864) at 26-28 Acton Street

Altered: Garfield School (1881) at 48-50 Sudbury Street

Altered: St. John's Lutheran Church (1907) at 30 Glendale Street

Bancroft/Coolidge School (1906-09) at Bancroft Street

Renovated: Roosevelt School (1918) at 80 Main Street (built by JE Warren Co., Marlboro), now the  
Maynard Public Library

Union Congregational Church (1852) Methodist Episcopal Church (1895) at Main/Acton Streets

Glenwood Cemetery is on the National Register of Historic Properties (e 19th c.)  
Some Maynard family members re-interred at Mt. Auburn Cemetery in 1904

Stone Structures

W. A. Haynes watering trough (1904) at Acton/Concord Streets

Balcom watering trough (1892) at Rte. 27/117

Rafferty watering trough (1892) at Main/Sudbury Streets

Lucius Maynard watering trough ( ) at Rte. 27/62

Granite marker ( ) at Parker Street and Old Marlboro Road

High School track and field house ( ) at Rte. 117/27

Additional Considerations

ANWR: remains of important structures

Areas of Maynard excluded from the 2000 MACRIS survey