

Town of Maynard
MAYNARD HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, January 19, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Jack MacKeen at 7pm via Zoom.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jack MacKeen, Priscilla Sandberg, Lee Caras, Paul Boothroyd, John Courville, Ann Gibson, Brion Berghaus and Paul Lesage.

OTHERS PRESENT: Peg Brown and Jeff Swanberg.

Paul made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 17th meeting. It was seconded by Priscilla and approved with a correction of the date stated for the upcoming February meeting.

CURRENT TOPICS

Mill Curfew Bell preservation update:

Paul reported that he was in contact with the Library about when to meet there to explore a temporary location for the bell. The bell armature also needs new bolts, he said. In addition Paul said he would send a note to Justin DeMarco regarding security for the bell while it is housed at the Winter Street DPW garage, and would talk with Joe Duffy (of Church Restoration Co.) and Ellen to learn if restoration work will be required for the bell.

Jack said that MHC needs to recommend a permanent location for the bell to the Town. He also urged the Commission to produce, as soon as possible, informational materials to accompany the bell for a plaque and supporting documentation in booklet (?) form.

FY21 Historical Markers:

Jack will check with the Town to confirm the balance of MHC's budget of approximately \$2,000 (funds for the Mill historic marker, etc.) and to learn the procedure to carryover a balance from one fiscal year to the next. Consideration of new markers was tabled.

National Register applications:

Jack will compile a list of potential candidates. Lee will assist by reviewing past minutes for buildings discussed.

NEW ITEMS

Annual Report of MHC to the Town:

Jack made a motion to accept the draft report previously circulated to members. It was seconded by Paul and approved.

Listing of all Commission projects funded by the CPC:

This was reviewed and discussed. Priscilla will work on ideas to promote projects completed with CPC funds.

House Plaque Program review:

Jack noted that, since the beginning of the program, the amount of information that applicants have wanted to include on their plaques has increased—a good thing. Guidelines for the amount of information that can appear on a plaque should be incorporated into the application form.

There was discussion about the mechanics of receiving applications and the record keeping of all plaques produced. Currently, the application and check are mailed to the Commission mailbox at Town Hall to be received by Jack.

Ann volunteered to take over as head of the plaque program and to co-ordinate work between the homeowner, the Commission and the plaque maker, SignLogic. Peg, who has assisted many applicants with their house research and has worked with SignLogic, volunteered to work with Ann. Ann and Peg will bring a new House Plaque Application form to the February meeting for review and approval.

12:10 Fire Horn potential renovation:

The Commission discussed what was known about the current state of the horn that was made in 1903. Peg volunteered to review archived newspaper articles about the horn. It was noted that the horn was sounded recently as part of Maynard's 150th anniversary celebration.

Resource notebook on MHC positions and procedures:

A notebook needs to be compiled to capture the knowledge of what each officer's duties are, what the Commission's obligations to the Town consist of (e.g., annual report), and what the administrative mechanics of running the Commission are under state and Town regulations.

On a related topic, Jack asked Priscilla to be responsible for helping new MHC alternate members learn about the Commission's work.

Documenting historic Maynard businesses:

Lee noted that there is scarce representation of historic Maynard businesses in the State Historical Commission database (MACRIS). There are a number of new entries that should be made, as highlighted in the Town of Maynard Sesquicentennial Steering Committee's book, "Maynard, Massachusetts: A Brief History". Lee will work on compiling a list of potential entries. She also suggested that houses that have received house plaques should be included on a list, given that many of these have already been researched in part by the Commission and by homeowners. Brion suggested that there should also be some type of acknowledgement (signage?) of important businesses that no longer exist in Town, e.g., signage that reads "former site of..."

OTHER

Town Bounds:

Paul reported that he, Kaitlin Young (Town Conservation Agent) and Jeff Swanberg (Member of the Select Board) visited 3 of the 5 the boundary markers—those on Red Acre Road, in the Summer Street apple orchard, and the one on Powder Mill Road. The State requires that the boundaries be visited and marked every five years.

A motion to adjourn was made by Paul, seconded by John Courville and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: February 16 and March 16, 2021.