

Town of Maynard  
MAYNARD HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING  
Tuesday, February 16, 2021

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jack MacKeen, Ellen Duggan, Lee Caras, Paul Boothroyd, John Courville (as a voting member), John Brandon, Ann Gibson, Brion Berghaus and Paul Lesage.

Ellen made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 19th meeting. It was seconded by Paul B and approved.

#### CURRENT TOPICS

##### Budget Report:

The Commission's account balance is approximately \$2,100, with four months remaining in the fiscal year. 10-15 new historical markers could be created with these funds. Additional funds also remain in the Ellen Duggan gift account.

##### Mill Curfew Bell project update:

Paul B said that the bell needed no restoration work, according to Joe Duffy, restoration specialist. It has an estimated value of \$10,000. The Commission continued discussion about placing it at the Library on a temporary or permanent basis, or moving it from the Library to the new fire station when that is built in a couple of years. Ellen reported that the Library is interested in displaying the bell at least on a temporary basis. Jack will discuss possible locations in the Library with the new Library director, but the Library decision rests with its Trustees. Jack reported that a conversation with the fire chief was positive, but that the bell would have to be displayed outdoors at a new station.

##### FY21 Historical Markers:

An "owner interest" letter will be drafted by Jack to send out to the owners of properties the Commission targets for markers. Once an owner responds positively, marker content will be developed by Ann and Peg, using the MACRIS database and other resources. Possible marker locations include the Artemus Whitney house (#174 Main St.), Rodoff Shalom Society Synagogue (#25 Acton St.), the old Nason Street high school (now on Acton Street), #7-9 Elmwood (has an original barn), the powder mill superintendent's house (106 Powdermill Road), the United Methodist Church, and the Haman Smith house (#36 Great Road). There are additional candidates not yet listed on MACRIS, e.g., commercial properties like Butler Lumber and the Fowler-Kennedy Funeral Home.

Ann volunteered to compile a list of completed historical markers for the Town Commission website. Jack noted that the Town account for the Mill historic marker project is now closed; the completed panels just need to be installed by the DPW at Ken Olsen Plaza on a date co-ordinated with the Sesquicentennial Committee.

##### National Register applications:

A number of properties were cited for consideration, but it became clear that the Commission needs a better understanding of NR requirements and of the application and funding processes. Lee will contact Kathy Broomer about presenting a roadmap for this at one of our next meetings. Possible properties include the Sanctuary, the Amory Maynard house on Main Street, the brick schoolhouse on Summer

Street, St. Bridget's church and parsonage, the Car barn and Power House on Great Road and others. Ellen offered to check with Stuart Saginor of the CPC regarding funding for NR applications.

## NEW ITEMS

### House Plaque Program:

Ann and Peg discussed revisions they will be recommending for the House Plaque Application form. A draft of the form will be circulated to Commission members.

### Resource notebook on MHC positions and procedures:

Discussion was tabled until next meeting.

### Lucius Maynard house historical marker:

The marker on site is correct in stating that Isaac Davis was an Acton Minuteman. The photo of the marker on the Town website that says he was a "Stow Minuteman". That photo needs to be replaced.

## OTHER

- In a State-sponsored review of town historical commission websites, Lee was pleased to note that Maynard's website achieved the highest category rating.
- Jack relayed information about a Concord Museum event.
- John Courville will review a State historical grant program regarding veterans.
  - Question: is the former Assabet Institution For Savings (currently Middlesex Savings Bank), inventoried on the MACRIS database? It is. #MA.71.
- Ellen noted several ideas and events for the Sesquicentennial.

A motion to adjourn was made by Lee, seconded by John Courville and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48pm.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: March 16 and April 20, 2021.