

Marshfield Historical Commission Minutes

Meeting of February 5, 2019

Meeting called to order at 6:30PM in hearing room 3 at the Town Hall. Attending were Otis Carney, Alfred Almeida, Brendan Coyne, Cindy Castro, Michelle Campion and Norma Haskins.

Demolition Permit Application – 27 Duck Hill Lane- Owner present Harry Ellis. Alfred reviewed- This house is 323 years old, built about 1695 and home to Marshfield earliest settlers who were active in town and church. This is the John Rouse Jr. House. It is listed in our list of Historical Properties. Alfred has confirmed ownership. He also stated that this house was owned for 150 years by the earliest residents of our town. Mr. Elis explained that the interior supports under the building are failing and cannot be patched together any longer. The upper portion of the house is in structurally good condition and much of the timbers and woodwork will be saved for the new house. He feels the house was originally built from the timbers of a ship due to the shape of the beams. The wide pumpkin pine floors are in good condition except for the knots which have raised over the years and have become a safety hazard due to tripping. The new cape style house will be very much like the existing house but be built farther back from the street in order to comply with zoning by laws. The new septic system will be in front of the new house in order to separate it from their well. Alfred feels, in order to comply with our by law, we must hold a public hearing with abutters being notified and determine the next step. He explained the process to Mr. Ellis who seemed knowledgeable in this regard. Alfred made a motion to continue the process in accordance with the bylaw, seconded by Cindy. It was voted and passed unanimously.

Demolition- 39 Island Street- Alfred reviewed. House is subject to flooding and the foundation is concrete columns. Because of the condition of the foundation the house needs to be raised above flood stage and it is cost prohibitive. This house was built in 1935 but is only 12 feet from the marsh. After review Alfred made a motion, seconded by Michelle that this house has no historical significance to the Town and we would no objection to the issuance of a demolition permit. It was voted and passed, unanimously.

Cherry Hill Granite Marker- Eric Goodwin, who represents the Conservation Commission as their person in charge of this area of trails, was present to offer assistance. There was a lengthy discussion on options for replacing this missing marker. Options include a granite marker like the one that is missing which Swenson Granite works has estimated the cost at \$1209.00. Brendan suggested we add a portion of Webster's last speech. In order to add the words to the back of the granite marker the added cost would be \$2590. Bringing the cost up to \$3961. Another option would be to have a painted sign made and installed next to the granite marker which has been estimated at \$300.00 from South Shore Signs. Mr. Goodwin offered his assistance in getting the marker replaced. Cindy checked with Clancy Brothers to see the cost of

moving this 600 pound piece of granite from the paved lot where it will be left to the site. She will meet with Mr. Goodwin & Norman McGilvray to walk the route and determine what machine we can get to accomplish this task. Mr. Goodwin also expressed a desire to get more publicity for this historical old trail so more people would visit. There was a brief discussion on funding. Otis remarked that funding will have to wait until after July 1st.

Secretary's Report- The minutes of the meeting of January 8th have been reviewed. Cindy made a motion, seconded by Michelle, to accept the minutes as prepared. It was voted and passed, unanimously.

Gov. Winslow Sign- Webster and Careswell Streets. The sign was cleaned and repainted by Arthur Haskins and returned. The post needs to be replaced. Cindy has checked with the DPW and they will fix the post ASAP.

Treasurers report. Brendan reports there is \$1027.00 left in our annual budget. There is \$58.00 in a separate account that needs to be spent ASAP. Norma asked if it could be used for office supplies. They agreed.

Cobblers Corner, Cindy has made a thorough search of the Willow Street area and has been unable to locate the Cobblers Corner granite marker.

Otis advises if any members have not yet it is time to renew the Conflict of Interest test from the state and send it to the Town Clerk.

New Business- Cindy received an email from Saria Sweeney, the Community Programming Coordinator of the Old Colony History Museum in Taunton. They have a program called "Passport to History" which publicizes the historical sites in this area. They would like our Town to participate in the program and open historical sites for visitors participating in the program. Cindy will keep us posted on the progress of this idea and there will be a Kick-off party on May 30th from 4-6PM at the Museum in Taunton.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45PM Next meeting will be March 5th.

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Haskins, Secretary