

MARSHFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting of August 1, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM in Hearing Room 3 at the Town Hall.

Attending were Otis Carney, Alfred Almeida, Cindy Castro, Robert Dougherty, Jim O’Gara, Brendan Coyne, Michelle Campion and Norma Haskins.

Demolition Applications: 78 Beach Street – Robert reviewed. This cottage was built in 1900 and has been updated and added to several times. To be replaced with another single family home. After review Cindy made a motion, seconded by Jim that this cottage has no historical significance to the Town and we would have no objection to the issuance of a demolition permit. It was voted and passed, unanimously.

60 West St- Rob reviewed. Cottage built in 1959. It is in very poor condition. The foundation is unstable. Cost to update is prohibitive. After review Michelle made a motion, seconded by Jim that this cottage has no historical significance to the Town and we would have no objection to the issuance of a demolition permit. It was voted and passed, unanimously.

27 Summer Street- This demolition application is for the garage only. It is to be replaced by another garage. Structure is in poor condition. After review Cindy made a motion, seconded by Jim that this building has no historical significance to the Town and we would have no objection to the issuance of a demolition permit. It was voted and passed, unanimously.

Secretary’s report- The minutes of the meeting of July 5th were reviewed. After review Jim made a motion, seconded by Rob to accept the minutes as prepared. It was voted and passed, unanimously.

Demolition application for 172 South River Street (The Pratt House). The Town has applied for a demolition permit to demo the house and barn. There is no one present from the Town at this meeting. Otis asked for comments from the audience. Tom Whelan filled us in on some of the history of this property and his efforts to preserve it because of its lengthy history. It was built in the mid 1700’s. He reviewed all the options open to save this house and barn. He has advised the

Board of Selectmen on his findings. Kari O'Donnell advised us that the family has waived its rights, in writing, to first refusal if the house and barn were to be sold. We have a copy of same. The Marshfield Fair may be interested in the barn if it becomes available. John Valienti referred to the letter from the family during his remarks to save the house and barn. He also was upset that the Town has left the place unattended and unkept since it was purchased 5 years ago. John Feeney voiced his concerns also for the property, hoping it could be saved. Otis remarked that it is well documented that this is a historical building, built by one of Marshfield's founding fathers. Alfred reviewed history of the property which had the building added in the 1700's and he traced the lineage back into 1862. Ownership of the land is traced back into the 1600's. While the house is presently not on the list of historic properties in Marshfield it should be. Alfred reports some damage due to vandalism. He described the condition of the house and barn. He's waiting for a report from the building inspector regarding the needs to bring this house up to code. There was some input from the audience again about the neglect of the Town since its purchase. Otis explained the process if the Town decides to subdivide the property and sell the house and barn and keep the open space. Karen O'Donnell from Open Space Committee said they chose to ask the Town to purchase the property to protect Open Space and historical protection of the property. Open Space is actually improving trails and they are not interested in the house and barn. The Pratt family does not want any other structures on the property. Open Space would prefer the building be gone but will not object to the subdivision of the property. After a lengthy review motion was made by Rob and 2nd by Cindy that this house and barn are historically significant to the Town. It was voted and passed, unanimously. Public hearing scheduled for our September meeting.

Brief discussion about other historic homes that have been saved by the Historical Commission.

Dan Webster's Law Office- Tom Whelan reports completion is about 30 days away. We discussed the plaque for the well and a change in the script. Otis thinks it would be better in bronze to be added later. The landscaper is anxious to start work on his part of the project. Norma has received estimates from 2 movers to move the furniture from the Marsha Thomas House back to the law office. They are around \$650.00 each. She made a motion seconded by Brendan to set aside

\$650.00 to pay the movers to move the furniture. It was voted and passed, unanimously. Brief discussion of the plaque that was on the front door of the law office explaining its move to the Winslow House in 1960. It was decided to restore the plaque and place it inside the building with an explanation.

Brief discussion on historical documents copying being done in hopes of gathering together documents from the Marsha Thomas House, Winslow House and Commission to add. All documents to be copied onto discs for research availability.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45PM.

Next meeting September 5, 2017

Respectfully submitted,
Norma Haskins, Secretary