

## Historic Longmeadow

### Meeting Minutes – January 17, 2008

The Longmeadow Historical Commission held a meeting of Historic Longmeadow on January 17, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. at the Fire Station. Present were:

- ❑ Longmeadow Historical Society board member: Crawford Lincoln
- ❑ Longmeadow Historic District board members: Denise Collins, Diane Nadeau, Crystal Diamond
- ❑ Longmeadow Historical Commission board members: Chris Hall, Brewster Sturtevant, Beth Hoff, Milton Reach, Susan Hall

The meeting began with introductions and a brief report from each of the three historic groups about the work they have been engaged in since last we met.

Susan shared the latest version of the Directory of Historic Groups Membership and requested updates. We are missing contact information for HDC members Hunter Golden and David Kowarsky as well as for Long Meddowe Days Chair Eileen Pasarski. Susan requested that this and any other updated member information be emailed to her.

Copies of the action item lists generated at last year's meetings with consultant Greg Farmer and Massachusetts Historical Commission representative Chris Skelly were distributed. Susan noted that many of the short-term action items have since been accomplished, including the formation of a Steering Committee to organize 225<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration events commencing October 17, 2008. The purpose of this celebration is to communicate effectively to the entire town in order to raise awareness about Longmeadow's rich heritage and history. The focus of the events will be educational, and, of course, celebratory. This celebration will not compete in any way with Long Meddowe Days. Susan invited anyone who might be interested in joining the Steering Committee or helping out in some other way to contact her.

At the request of the Historical Commission the group brainstormed a list of areas in Longmeadow that are of historical significance.

#### Areas of Historic Significance in Longmeadow, MA

1. The Green – *a local historic district*
2. Longmeadow St. North National Register District
3. Chandler Ave. – *National Register nomination has been filed*
4. Colony Hills – structures and Olmsted Bros. landscape architecture
5. Glen Arden – structures and Olmsted Bros. landscape architecture
6. The entire length of Longmeadow St.
7. South Park neighborhood – *as well as other "streetcar suburb" neighborhoods, to be specified by the Historical Commission*
8. The barns of Longmeadow – *an inventory of all existing historic barns is housed at the Storrs House*

9. The length of Ellington and Farmington St., Road and Avenue, including the Kibbe Tract, Laurel Park and Bliss Park
10. North side of Bliss Road from Longmeadow St. to Laurel St. – *significant for the well preserved row of bungalow homes*
11. Williams Street and Parkside Drive from Longmeadow St. to Laurel St.
12. Birnie Rd - *adjacent to the Green*
13. Colton Place - *adjacent to the Green*
14. Farmlea Road
15. Longmeadow Country Club
16. Isolated houses built previous to 1900 – *including the Johnny Appleseed House, the Jorey house on Bliss Rd., etc. A complete inventory of pre-1900 homes is housed at the Storrs House*
17. Properties designed by historically significant architects, including Royal Barry Wills and Frank Lloyd Wright student Jim Thompson
18. 1960's era “tech built” houses

Next Steps: This list will be matched with recommendations of the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Boston University “Longmeadow: A Plan for Historic Preservation” document. The Historical Commission will then share with other town boards a master list of areas it has determined to be of historical significance, to aid in future town planning efforts. The Historical Commission will review and update this list on a regular basis and distribute it annually. It is our hope that by educating other town Boards about areas of historical significance that we can avoid unnecessary infringement of inappropriate building on historic land. It is the consensus of the group that the Town Bylaws need to be reviewed and revised to better ensure protection of Longmeadow’s rich historic resources.

At future meetings of Historic Longmeadow this list will be reviewed and items prioritized to identify those areas most at risk and in need of immediate preservation attention. Future meeting will also include a presentation about using easements and deed restrictions as tools for historic preservation. Crystal Diamond volunteered to look into the bylaws and regulations of the current Historic District to help us clarify setback guidelines and landscape inclusion as part of the historic district. This discussion will continue at our next meeting, to be scheduled for April or May, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hall