

Minutes – Longmeadow Historical Commission
Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2007

The Longmeadow Historical Commission met on Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2007 at 7:30 P.M. Present were: Chris Hall, Susan Hall, Brewster Sturtevant, Betsy Port, Milton Reach and Beth Hoff.

The meeting began with a brief celebration of the incorporation of Longmeadow as a Town in the Commonwealth, 224 years ago today, Oct. 17, 1783. We are the first town to become incorporated in Massachusetts.

Betsy gave a brief update on Demo. Delay. The Kane house demolition has not been carried out as of now.

Most of the meeting was devoted to reviewing the proposed projects list from the May 10, 2007 historic collaborative meeting with Chris Skelly:

- Sharing board membership lists – Susan presented a draft membership list with email and phone numbers. Several additions were made. Next step is to mail this list out to Historical Society board and Longmeadow Historic District Commission for additions and corrections.
- Milton reported that LHS chair Crawford Lincoln is on-board with him for plans to present Historic Preservation Award(s) in time for the 225th Anniversary celebration next October. As of now HDC Chair John Robbins has not responded. Milton will as HDC member Crystal Diamond to contact John and the HDC to try to get a representation.
- 225th Anniversary Celebration plans are beginning. Beth and Brewster volunteered to help Susan with the planning. Milton has enlisted the support of Superintendent Jahn Hart. Susan will set up a meeting with Ms. Hart to ask her to recommend to Cabinet that each school come up with a simple plan for how to involve its students.

Susan has been in touch with Hope Trombley of the Longmeadow News, who has agreed to print a series of articles about people, places and events of historical significance, leading up to the 225th. The kick-off article will appear in this week's Longmeadow News. In it will be a call for interested volunteers to come forward to help in the planning. She has also contact the LHS to get permission for Hope to reprint articles from various publications and the "Town Crier." Susan will send press releases to the Reminder Publications as well. It was agreed that the public relations piece of this project is key: the main goal behind having a 225th celebration is to raise awareness of and appreciation for Longmeadow's rich heritage.

- Betsy shared the new brochure developed by her daughter Rachel Port delineating the distinct roles of the 3 historic groups. Susan will pass this along to Hope and encourage it to be the focus of the next Longmeadow News article, with mention that there are currently openings on the HDC and on the HC. Kudos were sent to Rachel for the great job developing this brochure, which was first available for visitors to Longmeadow Days last May. Milton asked Betsy if the brochure was available in pdf format for local Realtors to access on-line. Beth will check, too, to see if it can be posted on our website.
- Betsy and Chris have volunteered to write a new book with the goal of it being available to the public for the 225th. Using the Arcadia Press template and the vast Emerson photo collection at Storrs House the book will feature historic photos from in and around Longmeadow.
- Chris reported that the application has been filed to list Chandler Avenue on the National Register of Historic places. He will follow up with Mass Historical Commission for an update on its progress.
- Betsy is meeting with Linda Abrams from the Storrs House later this week. She will again present the list of questionable house build dates to Linda and press her about getting correct dates to Beth to for posting on Accessor's website.
- The last two action items from May were tabled until the next meeting.

Susan then updated the Commission on the Community Preservation Committee's work. The CPC met regularly over the summer to develop funding eligibility and selection criteria, an application and a press release. She distributed copies of each and stressed that now is the time to spread the word to other historically minded groups and individuals that the first round of applications must be submitted by December 3, 2007. Betsy Port expressed interested in submitting an application for the Arcadia book. Applications are available at Town Hall or on-line at longmeadow.org.

Next meeting will be Thursday Nov. 15 at 7:30 P.M. at the Fire House.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hall