

Minutes - Longmeadow Historical Commission  
Thursday, Oct. 19, 2006

The Longmeadow Historical Commission met on Thursday, Oct. 19, 2006, at 7:30 p.m. at the Fire Station. Present were: Chris Hall, Susan Hall, Beth Hoff, Betsy Port, Milton Reach and Brewster Sturtevant.

Old Business:

- There are no minutes from the Sept. 21 meeting since the meeting was informal due to lack of a quorum.
- Demolition Delay bylaw update: Betsy Port and Mark Denver have developed a demolition permit. The Commission supports this design.
- Knox House update: ZBA hearing continued to November. Should the owners wish to demolish the existing home they would need a demolition permit, which would trigger a meeting of the Demolition Oversight Committee.
- The Commission unanimously voted to appoint Betsy Port and Brewster Sturtevant as our representatives to the Demolition Oversight Committee.
- Beth, Betsy and Susan continue researching dates on historic homes so that the Assessor's database can be updated and corrected. Beth has scanned the 1987-88 Historic Properties survey data on to CD's to make this valuable resource more easily accessible. She has also used the survey data to cross reference dates against the Assessor's records. Betsy Port will follow up with Linda Abrams, curator of the Storrs House, to obtain a list of historic properties and the dates they were built. Susan, Beth and Betsy will then provide the Assessor's Office with as definitive an Inventory of Pre-1901 houses as possible by December.
- Historic Preservation Awards: Chris and Milton volunteered to form a sub-committee to develop criteria and guidelines for the creation of Historic Preservation Awards. They will report on their work at the November meeting.
- Future Historic Preservation Projects: We reviewed the list of possible projects that might be undertaken in the future. Added to the list first developed at the July 20, 2006 meeting as that we could be a resource agency/consultant to Longmeadow residents looking to preserve their historic homes. In this capacity we could include helpful links on our website. We also added to our list of possible funding sources funds generated by the CPA, possible grants from the Mass. Historical Commission and using local college students to do historic research for us, specifically Bay Path students.
- We came to consensus on 3 major projects that we will focus attention on over the next few months: Historic Preservation Awards (see notes about subcommittee, above), facilitating the collaboration of the three Longmeadow historic organizations and developing a mission statement for the Historical Commission. Milton and Betsy will contact the HDC and the Historical Society to be sure they are still on-board and willing to invite Greg Farmer to work with us.
- A copy of the planning template used to outline these projects is included with these minutes, as is an updated list of all projects and funding sources identified.

New Business:

- Beth Hoff attended the Mass. Historical Commission conference last month. She reported on the session she attended about implementation of the Community Preservation Act. This act will generate much needed revenue for historic preservation for Longmeadow. It could be used to hire an historic preservation consultant (perhaps Greg Farmer) to work with the three historical groups in town, among other projects. Beth will follow up with Robin Crosbie to share what she learned.

- Discussion around the damaged balustrade on the Community House. Are there plans to restore it? Has Parks and Rec. consulted with the Historic District Commission about its removal and/or restoration? Milton Reach will contact both Parks and Rec. and the HDC.

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The next meeting will be Thursday November 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fire House. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Hall