

Longmeadow Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes – Nov. 16, 2006

The November 16, 2006, meeting of the Longmeadow Historical Commission was held at the Fire House. Chair Chris Hall called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were: Chris Hall, Susan Hall, Beth Hoff and Milton Reach.

Old Business

- Betsy Port called in her report on the ZBA continued hearing on the Kane property. The ZBA will make its final decision on Dec. 6. Once the decision is made, there are 20 days to appeal. When the Kanes file for a demolition permit, Mark Denver will have 5 days to notify the Demolition Bylaw Oversight committee. The committee then has 30 days to hold a public hearing. OR, Mark Denver may declare the building unsafe and call for its immediate demolition. The Select Board is currently forming the Oversight Committee. It will be in place in the next couple of weeks.
- Beth, Betsy and Susan continue to document dates for all pre-1900 buildings. Beth suggested that we try to set up a face-to-face meeting with Linda Abrams to tap into Historical Society records.
- Betsy's report led to a discussion about the current Zoning Bylaws. The Historical Commission recommends to the Planning Board and to the ZBA that a review of current bylaws be undertaken. Susan and Chris will attend the December 11 Planning and Community Development Committee meeting and make this suggestion.
- Community Preservation Act – Susan reported that the proposed CPA bylaw is listed in the Nov. town meeting warrant. If the bylaw passes there will be one seat on the CPA committee for a Historical Commission member. We tabled voting on our representative until after Town Meeting.
- Historic Preservation Awards – Chris and Milton have begun discussions about Awards criteria and the possibility of including representatives from all 3 historic groups in the selection process. They will report to the Commission in December.

- Plans for collaboration with the 3 historic groups continues. The HDC and the Historical Society are definitely on board. Susan will contact Chris Skelly, Director of Local Government Programs with the Mass. Historical Commission, as well as follow up with Greg Farmer. Initial meeting target date will be in January 2007.

New Business

- Milton will contact Bay Path to see if they might be interested in assisting with updating Boston University historical surveys, perhaps beginning with surveys of their own properties. Milton will also contact Chris Skelly to find out about the latest survey techniques and technology recommended by the Commonwealth.
- Beth and Susan facilitated a short exercise to lead the Commission is developing a mission statement. There was informal consensus on the following mission statement, on first reading:

The mission of the Longmeadow Historical Commission is to identify, preserve and educate the community about the unique historical heritage and assets of the Town of Longmeadow.

Second reading and vote will take place at the December meeting.

Next meeting will be Thursday, Dec. 21 at 7:30 at the Fire Station. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hall