

Longmeadow Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes - December 21, 2006

The December 21, 2006, meeting of the 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, Milton Reach and Brewster Sturtevant.

Old Business

- Membership - Chris announced that Michael Gelinias has submitted his resignation to the Select Board, creating one vacancy on the Commission.
- Collaborative efforts are underway to bring all 3 historical groups together to develop strategies for historic preservation. Mass. Historical Commission rep. Chris Skelly will meet with us on Thursday, March 15 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Fire Station. Susan will invite all members of the HCD and the Historical Society board as well as ZBA members, Planning Board members, Robin Crosbie and Mark Denver.

Susan will also invite the three historic groups to an initial collaborative meeting on Thursday, Jan. 18, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Fire House. Consultant Greg Farmer may also be in attendance. Milton agreed to facilitate this meeting.

- Mission Statement second reading - the Commission revised the draft mission statement as follows. A third reading and vote will take place at our February 15 meeting:

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

New Business

- Chris reported that he and Susan attended the Dec. 11 meeting of the town Planning and Community Development Committee and raised the issue of reviewing town bylaws. Robin Crosbie stated that with help from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission the ZBA has started to look at problematic bylaws. Robin plans to include funds for a full time

- town planner in the FY08 budget. This newly created position would put a professional planner in place to advise all town committees about needed bylaw changes.
- The Commission discussed the National Trust article, "Protecting America's Historic Neighborhoods: Taming the Teardown Trend," distributed to us by Betsy Port. There were several points of interest that have relevance to Longmeadow. The article points to a need to have a site design and review bylaw for Longmeadow St. and other historic neighborhoods.
 - Historic Preservation Awards -Milton presented the draft document that he and Chris developed for the Commission to discuss. Nominations can come from the public at large to recognize individuals, groups or institutions for restoration projects, preservation projects and community/neighborhood enhancements such as gardens, monuments, etc. Milton will create a brief nomination form to post on-line on our website to facilitate nominations. A Preservation and Restoration Awards Committee will consist of one member designated from each local historic group: the Historical Society, the Historic District Commission and the Historical Commission. He and Chris will contact the other groups to get their consensus.
 - Vote: Brewster made a motion that the Historical Commission accept the draft historic preservation awards document as presented. It was seconded and unanimously approved.
 - The awards document will be put on our website along with the nomination form once developed. It will also be presented at the January 18, 2007, joint meeting.
 - Milton will continue to dialogue with Bay Path College in connection with updating historical surveys, perhaps beginning with historic buildings on the campus itself.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Hall