

Longmeadow Historical Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
February 15, 2007

The Longmeadow Historical Committee held its regular monthly meeting on February 15, 2007, at the Fire House. Present were Chris Hall, Beth Hoff, Brewster Sturtevant and Susan Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Old Business

- Brewster updated the Commission on the formation of the demolition delay committee. A super majority vote (5 out of the 6 members) will be necessary to impose the delay.
- Our mission statement was read and possible revisions discussed. The Commission unanimously approved it as follows:

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

- The January Historic Preservation Summit with Greg Farmer was declared a huge success by all participants. We reviewed and discussed the list of proposed action items brainstormed at the Summit. There are several that can be acted upon immediately:
  1. Preservation Awards are ready to be rolled out in collaboration with the Historic District Commission and the Historical Society. The Historical Commission agreed that Milton Reach should be our representative to the Awards Committee. If he is unable to serve Chris will be our representative.
  2. Membership lists of the 3 historic organizations will be shared between organizations – Milton has volunteered to coordinate this.
  3. A bibliography of historic preservation research publications will be compiled with the advice of Greg Farmer. The Historical Commission and the Historic District Commission will share budgeted monies to begin to purchase said publications for a “Historic Longmeadow” shelf at Storrs Library. Milton has volunteered to put together this bibliography. Chris volunteered to help him. We have a budget of \$200 for FY07 to put toward this project. Susan will request that the Historical Commission be granted a budget of \$1000 for FY08 to continue this work.
  4. Betsy Port has researched the actual “birthday” anniversary of Longmeadow. We will discuss how this day might be observed at a future meeting.
  5. Beth and Betsy have volunteered to begin to identify activities for local children to raise their appreciation for historic and natural resources. Suggested activities include a scavenger hunt to locate the largest tree in town, identify the structure with the most brownstone in its foundation, match photos of architectural detail on buildings with their street numbers (a variation of a scavenger hunt format), etc. Susan mentioned that she wrote a hunt activity for the Green several years ago. A copy of it may be obtained from Linda Abrams at Storrs House to reproduce and distribute, perhaps at the Library.

6. Betsy Port's daughter Rachel has volunteered to take digital photos of all of the houses designated with stars along with door surrounds and other interesting architectural features. These might be used to create a Longmeadow Doorways poster or a calendar in the future, with the purpose of raising awareness of Longmeadow's historic treasures. Beth volunteered to post these photos on the website.
  7. Beth agreed to work with the Webmaster to redesign a general page called "Historic Longmeadow" with links to each of the 3 historic groups' individual web pages.
  8. Susan volunteered to plan for another collaborate meeting of the 3 historic groups for sometime in May so that we can continue our work together.
- Membership – Susan noted that we continue to be in need of a seventh meeting. She will ask Betsy to contact Leslie Clements to ascertain interest. Susan will also inquire with Cindy French at Town Hall to be sure vacancy notice is published regularly.

### New Business

- The Town Manager has requested that we designate a representative to serve on the Community Preservation Committee. Susan volunteered for the position.
- Plans for the March 15 Community Preservation Summit with Mass. Historical Commission rep Chris Skelly were discussed in depth. Summit will be held at the Fire Station meeting room from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. Susan has sent invitations to the following Town groups to attend: Select Board members, Town Manager, Building Commissioner, ZBA members, Planning Board members, members of the Longmeadow Historical Society, the Historic District Commission. Betsy Port will extend an invitation to the Demolition Delay committee. *Historical Commission members are encouraged to spread the word personally to anyone from any of the above-mentioned groups and to any individual that might have an interest in attending.* The meeting is, of course, open to the public.

The meeting will center on discussion about how we can best fulfill our mission to identify and preserve historic assets and to educate the public about our heritage. Specifically we'd like Chris to address specifics including:

- The CPA – how to implement it for historic benefit
- Zoning – how to improve our current zoning bylaws for historic protection, including historic zoning overlays and individual easements
- What preservation strategies are most important for Longmeadow's challenges and needs
- How can we collaborate to forward historic preservation
- How can we educate the citizens of Longmeadow to get them on board to support our mission
- Issues around the marketing, "branding" of Historic Longmeadow.

Following a lively discussion the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Hall