

## Minutes – Longmeadow Historical Commission Thursday, July 20, 2006

The Longmeadow Historical Commission met on Thursday, July 20, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Station. Present were: Chris Hall, Susan Hall, Beth Hoff and Brewster Sturtevant. Also present was Paul Grunthalt, 80 Bliss Road.

Chair Chris Hall welcomed Mr. Grunthalt and encouraged him to participate in our discussion at any time during the meeting.

### Old Business:

- Demolition Delay Bylaw update – The Mass. Attorney General has not yet reviewed the bylaw. Susan Hall has contacted several communities around the Commonwealth to collect information about the guidelines used to assess applications for demolition. She has also collected several demolition permit forms which she will pass along to Betsy Port to share with Mark Denver.
- Community Preservation Act update – The Mass. Attorney General has not yet reviewed this. Susan notified Robin Crosbie that the Historical Commission is anxious to provide representation to the CPA committee when it is formed.
- Longmeadow.org Historical Commission link – Beth Hoff has posted Commission minutes on the website. She volunteered to scan the inventory listings for pre-1900 homes, which will complete efforts to put all pre-1945 building surveys in electronic form.
- The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed development of the Knox property on August 1. Chris Hall will attend. Susan will contact Linda Abrams to be sure she is also aware of the hearing.
- Susan reported that there has been no response to date from Martinelli, Discenza et al about our letter of May 9, 2006, with regard to their signage. She shared conversation with Planning Board Chair Walter Gunn as well as Planning Board Minutes from May 3 and May 26, 2005 meetings and their decision around signage for the building.
- Future meeting dates were confirmed. It was agreed that there will be no meeting in August. Commission members will be contacted should the need arise to meet before Sept. 21, our next regularly scheduled meeting.

### New Business:

General discussion was held around future Historical Commission projects, funding that might be necessary to implement them and possible fundraising sources. The group brainstormed the following potential projects:

- Develop a mission statement
- Hire historic preservation consultant Greg Farmer to facilitate effective collaboration between Commission, Historic District Commission and Longmeadow Historical Society around preservation issues.

- Expand the historic district and/or create new historic districts using Greg Farmer's expertise about how to best do this
- Identify historic assets, including archeological assets
- Update historic surveys from 1983
- Preserve historic documents now housed in Town Hall vault
- Create booklets and/or write informational articles about Longmeadow history
- Develop an informational video in collaboration with LCTV
- Develop a newsletter
- Investigate grants writing opportunities
- Implement a historic preservation awards program
- Sponsor a contest to get architectural students to design historically sensitive plans for remodeling of existing structures
- Preservation of open spaces within historic neighborhoods
- Collaborate with Planning Board and ZBA to tighten up zoning bylaws and sign ordinance
- Develop displays for Storrs Library
- Recruit speakers around historic preservation/land use/affordable housing issues
- Collect oral histories

Chris invited Paul Grunthalt to share his ideas about possible funding sources for these projects. He suggested:

- grants writing, which is most effective if project is very specific as to exactly what will be done, by whom, why, etc.
- estate planning
- using Mass. Historical Commission resources
- historic recipe collection from early families archives, combined with modern Longmeadow recipes to create a cookbook
- develop a data base of interested citizens

Brewster Sturtevant mentioned that there is a proposal to develop the land between the Longmeadow Shops and the Christian Science Church as apartments. Plans are also underway to remodel Armata's and to build a bank on adjacent land. The Historical Commission will contact the Planning Board and Mark Denver to remind them of our continued interest in reviewing building plans.

#### AGENDA ITEMS FOR SEPT. 21 MEETING:

- Develop guidelines and process for Historic Preservation Awards
- Revisit brainstormed list of potential project from July meeting – prioritize and assign chairs
- Develop guidelines and procedures for Demolition Delay bylaw

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hall