



Westborough Historical Commission

*Forbes Municipal Building
15 West Main Street, Room 26
Westborough, MA 01581-1916
Tel: (508) 366-3048
Fax: (508) 871-5198*

Meeting minutes of April 18, 2012 held in the Commission office.

Co-chairman Christine called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Phyllis Jaffee, Christine Kurtz, Jason Nappa; Hazel Nourse
Members Absent: Nancy Galicki, Stephen Hulbert, Nancy Strecker

Guests :Paula Thompson from Waterman Design
Patrick Purcell from Westborough Fire Dept.

Minutes of March 1st emergency meeting were unanimously approved
Minutes of the March 21 regularly scheduled meeting were unanimously approved.

The Board of Selectmen, at their meeting on April 10 voted Hazel Nourse to become a regular voting member of the commission. Christine and Nancy Strecker accompanied her. The Selectmen were very impressed with her qualifications. Welcome aboard Hazel.

Paula Thompson from Waterman Design updated us on the progress of the project at 129 East Main St. The Lenity Group is from Oregon and they are working with Waterman Design here on the local level. At the planning Board meeting last week, a special use permit was issued. Paula read that "Westborough Historical Commission would prefer to preserve the main portion of the existing house". The out buildings were not found to be of historical significance. The applicant shall offer the house to any individual organization or group. The applicant shall advertise the house in appropriate periodicals. If at the end of advertising (6 months from February 23), if no agreement has been reached to remove the house, the applicant shall offer all individual elements of the house to anyone willing to remove these elements, at their expense, from the house and the project site, following the completion of the Town's Demolition Delay Permit process. The archaeological report from PAL, Inc. was received with an architectural description as well as historical narrative of the property. No historical significance was mentioned. Paula also talked about a timber frame company coming to look at the house. They determined there isn't much of value. Both the owner of the property and Lenity Group are working with realtors to sell the house or contents. Projected time line for the project: Meeting with Conservation Commission

beginning of May, meeting with Selectmen end of May, start construction in June. Before construction starts the house area will be fenced off so it will not be disturbed.

Update, Planning Board, Hazel Nourse – The Planning Board heard the same information that Paula Thompson discussed with us as well as the draft for the special permit (which the Planning Board approved) for 129 E. Main St.

Patrick Purcell from the Westborough Fire Dept. talked with us about the Dept. using the house at 129 E. Main St. for training purposes. He stressed that there would be no fire involved. Some of the venues they practice are: rapid intervention training, search & rescue, removing people from burning buildings, ladder training, etc. Co-chair Kurtz told him we have no jurisdiction over the house. He has to work with Lenity Group directly if there is no other interest in the home after the demolition delay period. We also told him there will be a fence surrounding the house area while construction on the rest of the property is occurring. He is scheduled to come to our July 18th meeting to be updated on the status of the house.

We were updated by Jason on 2 letters concerning the property at 129 E. Main St. The first letter was from MHC to Lenity Group on which we were cc'd. The 2nd letter was from Craig Welch Group to Town of Westborough describing they are beginning the process to find qualified people or organizations in regard to salvage at the home at 129 E. Main St. A sign was put up on the front door with a phone number to call regarding the house only.

Christine sent an email to the members re: Local Preservation e-newsletter and suggested they might want to receive this information.

Christine made a slide show presentation of the work being done by Kai of New England Gravestone Services at Midland Cemetery. He has repaired a lot of stones during his days here but the main thing was to use his special equipment to seal the tomb which the town DPW was unable to secure and which has been partly open for several years.

Demolitions: 143 Fisher St. The commission voted to approve the demolition of the leaning barn.

171 Milk St. house. This house is still owned by the state but a person is interested in the house and is trying to buy it and then he wants it demolished. He called us to see if there is any historical value to the house.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58p.m.

Respectfully,

Sue Speckman
Administrative Assistant

List of documents considered at meeting:

PAL, Inc. report on 129 E. Main St.

2 letters re: 129 E. Main St. – from MHC to Lenity Group
from Craig Welch Group to Town of Westborough