

# Medway Historical Commission

Medway Historical Society, 7:30 p.m.

June 5, 2013

Minutes

**Confirmation of quorum:** Marian Pierre-Louis, Mark Wilcox, Paul Russell, Rob Pomponio, Gene Liscombe  
Absent: Jeanne Johnson, Donna Hainey

Guests: Grace Hoag

Mr. Alex Benner and Mrs. Marisol Molina (195-197 Main St.)

John Foresto, Dennis Crowley and Glen Trindade (Medway Selectmen)

**Call To Order:** 7:30 p.m.

**Thayer homeplace Development Committee Update (Mark Wilcox)-** The development committee met recently to go over the progress. The foundation for the addition has been poured and the post and beam construction is slated to begin in 6 weeks. In the meantime the contractors have been working on the drainage around the house and will continue to work on the inside of the house.

**Evergreen Cemetery Preservation-** Mark and Rob met with Mr. Norm Felker on May 24<sup>th</sup> to walk the historic portion of the cemetery and show him the headstones and footstones to look out for when he is mowing up at the cemetery. Mr. Felker has generously offered his time and effort to help Mark maintain the historic portion of the cemetery. We covered best practices and showed Mr. Felker where clippings and debris can go for removal. He is looking forward to keeping busy up there as a volunteer.

**Historic Markers Project** (Rob Pomponio)- Rob will again contact the folks at DPS to have them schedule a time to do a site walk for the placement of each of the sign. He will also make time to be there as well. He will let the HC members know when this is scheduled so that at least one HC member is present for these discussions.

**Commemoration of Grace Hoag's 35 years of Service to the Historic Commission and 50+ years of involvement in the Town of Medway.** Selectmen Foresto and Crowley were on hand to present to Grace a proclamation from the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator, Suzanne Kennedy, honoring Grace's commitment to the Town of Medway citing her service to the Historical Commission, Historical Society, numerous historic preservation projects and the incorporation of two National Historic Districts within Medway. Mr. Foresto read the proclamation to the assembled group and presented it to Grace. There was a round of applause. At 7:40 Selectmen Crowley and Foresto departed to attend another meeting. At 8:05pm Selectman Trindade arrived from another meeting to offer his congratulations to Grace as well. Glenn asked how many current vacancies we have on the HC and our response is 2 currently. Glen said that he would convey this information to the BOS.

**7:40pm Appointment with Mr. Benner and Ms. Molina: 195-197 Main Street,** Mr. Benner and Ms. Molina are the new owners of the historic Cole Library and Torrent Firehouse, which are within the Rabbit Hill Historic District and have specific historical preservation restrictions written into the deed. They would like to know what they can and cannot do to the home and firehouse with regard to the preservation restrictions. In particular they were concerned that they could not repair the hose tower. We reviewed the deed restrictions with them and how to interpret them. In essence there are specific items within the preservation restrictions that serve to bring attention to them as historic elements of both buildings that need to be preserved. In many cases this applies to the outside of the buildings but for these buildings there are specific restrictions to interior elements as well (eg. The parquet floor in the second floor of the firehouse). They had questions about paint colors, a fence for the front yard and back yard, a new pathway to the front door, the removal of an awning and replacement of windows. Rob suggested that the best way to address any potential improvements to the buildings be put into a letter to the Historical Commission along with a description of the current conditions (photos would be helpful) and a description of what the end result would look like. In this way the Commission could review the elements that pertain to the specific preservation restrictions. The fence and walkway are

outside of the purview of the Commission, but may require them to go before the zoning board if they are covered by a specific approval or permit process. We also gave the Molina's a brief history of their house and offered them a warm welcome to the Town with hope that they take advantage of the rich history of the Town and upcoming community events for families.

**Historic District Markers:** No Update

**Other business:** Rob handed over the last of his files along with a flashdrive containing all of the Word documents and pdf's of emails for both the Historic Commission and CPC for the records of the HC to have for these documents. He also turned in his copy of the Historic Structures Survey 2 volume set.

At 9:17 p.m. Marian moved that we adjourn. Which was approved by all.

Next meeting: June 5, 2013

Respectfully submitted,  
Rob Pomponio

(Secretary Jeanne Johnson was absent)