

Medfield Historical Commission

March 31, 2021 Meeting

Minutes

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Members present: co-chair David Temple; Maria Baler; Peter Fletcher; co-chair Seth Meehan;

Kirstin Poler; Doug Whitla

Others present and participating: Sarah Raposa; Ted Cannon; Rob MacCready; Rob Gregg;

Christine Potts McCue; Jay Duncan; Teresa James

7:30 pm – Meehan called the meeting to order and read the following notice:

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Medfield Historical Commission is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order. A reminder that persons who would like to listen to or view this meeting while in progress may do so by following the instructions on the agenda and meeting notice. This meeting is being recorded.

Clark Tavern

Cannon and MacCready provided an update on the PAL proposal to conduct a site examination at the Clark Tavern based on feedback provided by John Thompson and the Commission members at the March 31 meeting. Thompson's comments (in italics) and the responses appear below

I would suggest that there be 3 - half meter test pits (per side=12) and 4 -1 meter test pits, there be about one per side, unless results indicate more intensive work in one area. There will be a total of 13 pits. There will be three 1 meter test pits.

Also, PAL should create a detailed site map/ base map, including the footprint(s) of all buildings on the site, and the well located on the plan. All of this has already been done by the engineer as part of the permitting process. See attached. The well is the square just off the last side of the building about half way back.

A detailed video of the exterior and interior should be made. Dave & Rob will complete the video. *The soil column/ area outside exterior doorways (located on the plan) should be emphasized.* Some of the exterior pits will be emphasize the exterior doorways

The well, if accessible, should be checked for artifacts. PAL said they will not touch the well.

Peak house artifacts, access to be provided by the Medfield Historical Society and Medfield Historic Commission, should be viewed for any significant context to the Clark Tavern site examination. Significant representative artifacts from the Peak House excavation, should be set aside and labeled. PAL does not want to work on the Peak House artifacts

The basement has significant potential for cultural remains - some testing should be made under the building, even if simple shovel test pits. PAL originally planned to do some basement work, but after a site visit they refuse to do any basement work – they don't want to send any of their people in there.

At least one "control" test pit is suggested away from the building, it may show the native/ cultivated soils column. PAL can use one of the pits done previously for LCB as the “control”

The responses were shared earlier in the afternoon with John Thompson and Rob Gregg as well. The Commission members were satisfied with the responses, especially in safety matters for the hand-pump well and the basement. PAL also requests 32 hours of volunteer work as part of the proposal. Commission members voted unanimously to approve the PAL proposal.

Townwide Master Plan

Duncan, James, and Raposa provided an update on the master plan, with special attention to the objectives and strategies related to the Commission: developing a comprehensive vision for downtown; preserving historic buildings that contribute to the fabric of downtown; creating a “Medfield Story” that conveys the town’s history and preserves resources that tell this story; supporting preservation, through re-use, of the Medfield State Hospital’s historic buildings and landscape; and reactivating Medfield’s standing as a Certified Local Government.

Commission members expressed support for the Commission’s possible role in these efforts.

Temple noted that Historic District Commission would be responsible for the CLG. Duncan and James asked if the Commission might issue a letter of support of the plan in May. The Commission plans to discuss the master plan as part of its next meeting on April 28.

Adjournment

At 8:32 pm, the members voted unanimously to adjourn.