

Agawam Historical Commission
Meeting held at the Captain Charles Leonard House
April 30, 2019

Chairman David Cecchi called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Members Present: David Cecchi, Marilyn Curry, Charlotte Fields, Teresa Kozloski, Shelley Pass, Alice Smith

Members not present: none

Others Present:
Chuck Calabrese, 7 Brewster Rd, West Springfield

A Public Hearing relative to the application for a demolition permit for the structure at 27 Walnut Street, Agawam was opened.

The Agawam Law Department and Chuck Calabrese came to the agreement that Calabrese will preserve and protect the store at 59 High Street, Agawam, and no lawful actions will be taken against Calabrese for the unpermitted demolition of a shed at 27 Walnut Street, Agawam.

Marilyn Curry: Are you going to bring the store at 59 High Street up to code?
Chuck Calabrese: No, it is too costly.

Marilyn Curry made a motion to approve the demolition of the structure at 27 Walnut Street. 2nd Alice Smith. Yea: D.Cecchi, M.Curry, C.Fields, T.Kozloski, A.Smith. Opposed: S.Pass
Demolition approval by majority vote.

Public Hearing Closed at 7:13pm

Regular Meeting opened at 7:13pm

D.Cecchi and S.Pass both attended the West Springfield Historical Commission meeting regarding the proposal to create a Mittineague Historic District that would encompass both West Springfield and Agawam structures.
The West Springfield Historical Commission seemed interested.
Will the bridge be considered part of the Historic District? It would most likely be considered a non-contributing structure.

Approval of Minutes of 26 March 2019 meeting

Marilyn Curry made a motion to approve the March 2019 minutes. 2nd Shelley Pass: Passed by unanimous vote.

Approval of PVPC Section 106 Review of Small Cities/Community Development Block Grant Program Housing Rehab Applications

How were these specific houses chosen to be reviewed? The property owners applied for the Grant. The final decision is based on the age and income of the applicant.

Marilyn Curry made a motion to approve the information provided to the Commission by the PVPC. 2nd Teresa Kozloski. Passed by unanimous vote.

Discussion: 1985 Inventory of Historic Structures Update Project

Feeding Hills Area Form

It was suggested that a marker be placed on the Locus Map to denote the Anne Sullivan sculpture.

Marilyn Curry made a motion to approve the Feeding Hills Center Area Form. 2nd Shelley Pass. Passed by unanimous vote.

Maple Grove Cemetery

Amendment: Change Southwick Road to Southwick Street.

Shelley Pass made a motion to approve the amended Maple Grove Cemetery inventory form. 2nd Charlotte Fields. Passed by unanimous vote.

491 North West Street Area Form

Shelley Pass made a motion to approve the 491 North West Street area form. 2nd Marilyn Curry. Passed by unanimous vote.

Shannon Walsh has sent the Cooper Street Cemetery Form to Mass Historical and is waiting for word on the National Register eligibility.

Discussion: Smith Family Cemetery

Christian Rua has been cleaning the Smith Family Cemetery as his Eagle Scout project.

Rua has cleared around the outside of the fence and has agreed not to do any maintenance to the stones themselves. Christian will attend the May 2019 meeting.

There is precedent for Historic Cemeteries that do not recommend modern additions including flag poles, benches, or trash receptacles.

In the old town reports there were funds for the maintenance of the cemeteries, but it is unclear as to where these funds are now.

Discussion: Agawam Historical Commission web content

Changes to be made:

Alice Smith became a Historical Commission member in 1986.

Addition of the difference between the Historical Commission and the Historical Association.

Add Current Projects.

David Cecchi will propose the addition of a link to view the MACRIS forms.

David will make the changes and send it to be posted on the website.

Other Business

The Commission was notified that the owner of 854 Main Street was demolishing sheds. D.Cecchi met the building inspector at the site. One of the structures was pronounced condemned on the spot. The owner of 854 Main Street has now applied for a demolition permit for the other structure. A walk through will be arranged.

Agawam Congregational Church is celebrating their bicentennial. D.Cecchi made a certificate to acknowledge the church's historic presence in Agawam.

Memorial Day Parade. D.Cecchi will send in the application.

I-pad for Agawam Commission members: Neither the Mayor nor Mark Strange believe that the work performed by the Historical Commission warrants the expense of the ipad at this time.

Next meeting to be held on May 28, 2019.

Alice Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 2nd Teresa Kozloski. Passed by unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned 8:51pm

Respectfully submitted
Charlotte Fields
Agawam Historical Commission