

**Agawam Historical Commission
Meeting held at the Captain Charles Leonard House
May 28, 2019**

Chairman David Cecchi called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

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

Members not present: none

Public Hearing relative to application for a Demolition Permit for the shed at 854 Main Street, Agawam:

Arnold Lovely of 854 Main Street would like to tear down the existing shed and replace it with a post and beam shed.

M. Curry: Is your project set in stone?

A.Lovely: Is still deciding whether to build the shed himself or to purchase a kit.

The date of the shed is unclear, but it is not as old as originally thought.

Marilyn Curry made a motion to grant permission for the demolition of the shed at 854 Main street.

2nd Teresa Kozloski. Passed unanimous vote.

Discussion: Smith Family Cemetery

Christian Rua, of Troop 185, presented his Eagle Scout project to the Historical Commission. Rua, along with volunteers, has been doing much needed maintenance in the Smith Family Cemetery with the intention of positively benefiting the community. Rua has cleaned the brush around the perimeter of the cemetery and realigned the stone steps. With the help of fundraising, Rua intends to replace the fence and install an informational sign on the history of the cemetery. Rua also brought forth intentions for cleaning headstones.

Rua has requested assistance from the Historical Commission in creating the historical content for the signage.

Patrick Asta-Ferrero, member of the Veterans Council, read a letter from Aldo Mancini, chairman of the Veterans Council. Mancini's letter emphasized the need for Agawam cemetery improvements; including fences in need of repair/replacement and headstones in need of repair.

The Agawam Historical Commission commends Christian Rua for all of his hard work and his interest in Agawam's history.

Alice Smith voiced her concerns in regards to the cleaning of any headstones by a non professional. A.Smith suggests the hire of a professional to both clean the stones and teach Rua.

P.Asta-Ferrero noted that the Veteran's Council has two experienced individuals who are willing to donate their time to clean the stones.

L.Tingley agrees that it would be great to have C.Rua working with someone to clean the stones.

L.Tingley has recently taken over the Agawam Broadcast Studio and hopes to create a segment on Rua's work

It was suggested that Chris Rua apply for funds from the CPA to help with the cost of a historical sign marker.

Henry Kozloski informs that the application would need to be submitted for approval and would not be voted on until July.

M. Curry made a motion to approve Rua's ongoing work with the help of a professional headstone cleaner. 2nd S. Pass . Passed by unanimous vote.

1985 Inventory of Historic Structures Update Project Shannon Walsh, Preservation Planner, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Shannon Walsh presented a working draft of her progress including a color coded listing of properties.

Shannon will complete a separate inventory form for the school house on the Horace Roberts Farmstead, at 491 North West Street. The current homeowner, along with his son, are looking into a Rural Historic District on North West Street.

S.Walsh has submitted the inventory form for the Federal Hill Cemetery to MHC for a National Register eligibility opinion.

S.Walsh is working on the North Agawam Area form; all buildings within the Area boundaries must be indexed, both new and old.

This Summer S.Walsh has plans to work on the Smith Family Cemetery and the Agawam Center Cemetery.

The Wood Library in Springfield holds much older cemetery inventories and Shannon has been using them as a resource.

S.Walsh will be back to the historical commission in Fall 2019 to prioritize with the Commission.

The Patch: There are only three historic buildings left; two have additions and one is slowly being dismantled.

Demolition Delay Ordinance

D.Cecchi attended the workshop on Tools for Dealing with Distressed Historical Properties.

The Holyoke Building Inspector also attended and seemed very proactive.

Agawam's Building Inspector, Bill Scott, shows an interest in working with the town and preservation.

Information on Minimum Maintenance will be good to add to Agawam's Demolition Delay Ordinance.

Approval of Minutes of 30 April 2019 Meeting

M.Curry made a motion to approve the minutes. 2nd S.Pass.

Aye: D.Cecchi, M.Curry, C.Fields, T.Kozloski, S.Pass, A.Smith.

Abstain: L.Tingley

Approved by a majority vote.

Other Business

Charles Calabrese wants to knock down the house on High Street and build a duplex. The property lacks both the frontage and the square footage. Calabrese has applied for a variance and it has been tabled by ZBA until June.

Agawam Center Library: It is currently used as a pre-school, while the basement is used for town storage.

The lease for head start was renewed, but the lease has been shortened.

If the Commission wants to support the library becoming a historical archive, it could be something worth pursuing.

It is unknown as to the legal findings regarding the library.

D.Cecchi will put in a request for the legal findings.

T.Kozloski made a motion to add the Center Library to the June 2019 agenda to discuss the use of the library, the relationship to the town, and the legal standing. 2nd S.Pass.

Approved by unanimous vote

T.Kozloski made a motion to petition to get I-pads for the Commission. 2nd Les Tingley.

Approved by unanimous vote.

M.Curry made a motion to adjourn. 2nd S.Pass. Passed by unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm

Next Meeting will be held June 25, 2019

Respectfully submitted

Charlotte Fields

Agawam Historical Commission