

FRAMINGHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Minutes Of the meeting of November 17, 1999

Members present: S. Herring, Chair; L. Evans-Daly, ViceChair; W. Lyon, Secretary;  
M. Murphy

Guests: Donna Lavin White, Scott White, and Clint Lavin, residents at 397  
Central Street, with their att'y John D. McCoy

New Business: Demolition permit for barn at 397 Central Street - owner <sup>was</sup> Clinton Orrell, @86, not present. Public hearing according to Demolition Delay bylaw was convened. Chair explained bylaw. Those present are the present owners. Chair noted that permit states barn built c. 1910, but details are mid-19th century with cupola. Structure in advanced state of decay. Chair noted the barn is an impressive landmark midway between Fram'm Centre and Saxonville. Ms. Evans-Daly noted there are very few barns left in Fram'm, no more than 10 or 15, and the Commission is very sensitive concerning their preservation. As example, a delapidated barn in Saxonville was taken down and rebuilt on same footprint. Ms. White noted "demolition by neglect" was taking place; house also in repair with new roof being installed. She noted it would cost too much to rebuild as a garage - it would need a new foundation as well - it's too far gone. Most of the timbers have broken and the neighbors are concerned about the safety of the structure in view of the number of nearby children. Chair suggested something in writing indicating that a reproduction would be built with a traditional cupola on a traditional red barn.

A neighbor had written a letter indicating the barn is "an attractive nuisance" - owners have no idea of the cost needed.. Chair stated Commission is looking for a written statement that the barn would be replaced.. Owner said they couldn't build as close to the house; Chair said plans should be taken to Bldg Dept and if turned down Commission would support owner in ZBA appeal.

Commission then voted 4-0 that it found the barn at 397 Central not significant, pending receipt from owner stating that a reasonable facsimile including a cupola would be constructed, and that such letter should be faxed to Commission by November 19.

Minutes of meeting of October 13, 1999, approved as corrected.

Correspondence, etc.: Chair stated a signed agreement from Triangle Realty Trust had been received.. Plan afoot to enter the Nobscot Boy Scout reservation in the National Register. Chair had worked with the Knox Council to identify several historical sites such as the Greenwood and the smallpox cemeteries. Letters rec'd on the rehabilitation of 90-92 Irving Street and the Winthrop Hotel.

Watch List: FSC President's House - all pertinent info forwarded to Mass Historical Commission. It seems demolition of bldg tacked on to building of Athletic Center at FSC. MHC has stated that justification for demolition would have to be developed. Ms. Murphy stated several groups were looking toward alternative use of the house. Chair will follow issue.

Old St. John's Ecumenical Center - slate roof is being ripped off - it was previously said to be in good shape.

Clayes House - there's concern about application of new nuisance bylaw..  
P Rugg/Gates House - letter by Chris Walsh to Helen Lemoine objecting to moving house. Commission had previously supported moving, as described previously. Not clear why letter written, as Commission does not share extreme position of FPT.

Moved to add Edgell Memorial Library to watch list as bldg is in jeopardy - roof leaking; painting had to be taken down; kitchen wall wet - Sen. Magnani viewed damage and inquired about writing a preservation grant. The new ramp seems to be too low - puddle of water outside. Sidewalk and railing remains to be installed. CDBG \$20K grant didn't include funding for railings. Motion withdrawn.

Old Business: Grant on Crispus Attucks bridge sign - neighborhood group should be included . Correspondence with Edwina Weston-Dyer at issue.

Historic Marker Program: top of Eames Square sign broke off (after the Eames reunion) and needs to be repaired/replaced. All historical markers now being done by Town in brown with a cartouche of a wheel..

Lustron House - no report.

Shoppers World sign now in basement of Edgell Library. Nice if neon parts could be reattached to sign. L. Evans-Daly wrote letter to O.B. Hill thanking him for his part in moving the sign..

Nobscot Library and P.O. bldg has been offered to Garden Club - no response yet. Chair will write Rosemary Weich, chair of beautification committee..

Other Business: Letter from Mark Rees, CFO, asking for budget for 2000-01. Current budget is \$500 (to date we've spent \$31). We need a long range plan; we need to know what other Historical Commissions' budgets are. The Preservation Plan needs a champion. Suggest \$2,000 for 2000. There'll be a need for Tercentennial signs, etc. The Farm Pond Park could be renamed Tercentennial Park - or, Peace Park. Money needed to support new history of town, also.. Motion to ask for \$2,000 passed 4 - 0.

Letter from Beth Bannon received and noted. Society is planning an exhibit and will participate in historical material. Exhibit at Memorial Bldg also..

Note that Ebenezer's Restaurant (in Richardsonian RR Station) has been sold; probably NY Pizza will move in.

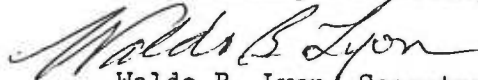
Concern re Eastleigh Farm land - 140 acres on market, used as dairy farm 1934-81. Also old Indian trail, Paul Gibbs house, Gibbs family in 1754, three unique round stucco silos. Kathy Bartolini interested in reservoirs and farms..

Grace Church rehab issue: expensive ADA improvements with handicapped entrance. No formal application made as of yet. Commission has reviewed the architectural modification plan for the proposed change to the exterior of Grace Church Pearl Street entrance. However any demolition associated with this plan should follow the established demolition delay bylaw procedure. Moved by L. Evans-Daly that such a letter be sent to Grace Church, passed 4-0.

Thought being given to tax break (TIF) - wait until Triangle calls; we'd be supportive if they preserve Bldg #9..

Plan is to skip December meeting and resume meetings in January.

Respectfully submitted,



Waldo B. Lyon, Secretary