

**MINUTES
MIDDLEBOROUGH
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
9/9/2025**

Members Present: Larissa Hallgren, Wally Glendye, Chip Mangio, Laurene Gerrior, Nathan Demers, Neil Rosenthal.

Also present: Louis Derry Wells, Mac Sprague, Paula Fay, Stephenie Wonder.

Chairman Larissa Hallgren called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Old Business:

MOTION: To approve the 560 Wareham Street minutes of August 12th as presented.

BY: W.Glendye SECOND: L.Gerrior VOTE: 6-0-0

MOTION: To approve the 37 Wareham Street minutes of August 12th as presented.

BY: W.Glendye SECOND: C.Mangio VOTE: 6-0-0

MOTION: To approve the regular meeting minutes of August 12th as presented.

BY: L.Gerrior SECOND: W.Glendye VOTE: 6-0-0

A letter was written and sent by Larissa Hallgren to the Select Board requesting deeper collaboration on relevant topics. In the letter the Historical Commission, in the spirit of collaboration, expressed desire to be called upon to provide historic input more often, and notified of relevant matters in town.

Larissa Hallgren spoke about her follow-up conversation with Mark Germain about the topic. It was productive and ended on a positive note.

Wally Glendye brought up concerns on historically valuable items belonging to the town inside 99 North Main street being sold. Louis Derry Wells, 9 Chestnut Street, expressed her related concerns for preservation of architectural elements, such as the ticket booth at 99 North Main Street.

New Business:

Mike Bumpus reached out to the Historical Commission for consultation on preservation of historical documents and objects, specifically at the East Grove Pumping Station. Larissa Hallgren and Neil Rosenthal visited the station and viewed what was there, including a ledger dating back to 1885.

Ken Stone, MGED, has been keeping Larissa Hallgren updated on progress during the demolition and prepping of the electric department building. Photos of the process will be shown by Ken Stone at a later date.

Mac Sprague was present to give an update on 25-29 Center Street facade repairs. The vertical brick lentils above the windows are in poor shape, and attempting to repair them poses a risk that the entire facade will fall. The only feasible solution is to remove the facade and replace it entirely. Mac Sprague will replace the current bricks with ones that match the first floor bricks, since the bricks on the second floor are a poorer quality. During construction the concrete block stamped with 1934 may be unsalvageable, at which point it would be replaced with a granite block of the same size and shape.

Paula Fay was present to speak about work inside the Peter H. Peirce Homestead. Due to the building's use being changed from mixed residential and commercial to public use, the first floor must be made ADA compliant. She is requesting a letter of support from the Historical Commission and feedback on the proposed changes to the building. Larissa Hallgren wanted to have a site visit done as a group so everyone on the Historical Commission can make an informed decision.

Neil Rosenthal brought up concerns with the ownership of the building by the Friends of the Middleborough Public

Library. Nathan Demers asked why a preservation restriction was not pursued for this property. Paula Fay said that per the written agreement with Bill Decas, a preservation restriction was not defined as a requirement. Larissa Hallgren will ask the town council for advice regarding next steps, and coordinate a site visit via email if necessary.

An email was received from Doris Muirhead, regarding 504 Wareham Street. She has been interested in the property and would like to purchase it from the current owner before demolition. On September 10th, 2024, 504 Wareham Street was declared preferably preserved. Since that time, the owner has not communicated with the Historical Commission.

Matthew Owens, who was in attendance at the last regular meeting, sent a letter of interest in becoming a member of the Historical Commission. He and his wife currently live in the home known as the Deborah Sampson house, and moved here specifically because of Middleborough's rich history. Larissa Hallgren wanted to have another conversation with him to outline the procedures and responsibilities of the Historical Commission.

MOTION: To nominate Wally Glendye for the position of Secretary.

BY: L.Gerrior

SECOND: N.Demers

VOTE: 6-0-0

The position of Treasurer will be voted on at the next meeting, after determining if alternate members can hold positions.

The Historical Commission facebook will now be eligible for all members to post on. Larissa Hallgren appointed Chip Mangio to be in charge of the Historical Commission website.

Laurene Gerrior will represent the Historical Commission at Crantoberfest.

There were no updates regarding cemetery stewardship at this time.

Mac Sprauge spoke about the upcoming Town Forest Conference, which will be held in Middleboro in partnership with the DCR on October 4th. Larissa Hallgren will be a keynote speaker on behalf of the Historical Commission. The event will highlight the natural resources of the town, such as Pratt Farm and Frederick Weston Memorial Forest.

All the current oral history videos will be uploaded online with matching titles shortly. Larissa Hallgren expressed interest in interviewing Neil Rosenthal about his breadth of experience living in Middleboro.

Unanticipated:

Larissa Hallgren will be in contact with Stephenie Wonder about the history of her property, 69 Highland Street, as soon as possible.

MOTION: To raise Alexis Cope's hourly rate to \$20.

BY: W.Glendye

SECOND: N.Rosenthal

VOTE: 6-0-0

MOTION: To pay Alexis Cope \$160 for work done in July and August.

BY: W.Glendye

SECOND: L.Gerrior

VOTE: 6-0-0

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:05pm

BY: N.Rosenthal

SECOND: C.Mangio

VOTE: 6-0-0

Respectfully Submitted: Alexis J. Cope, Recording Secretary

Next meeting: October 14, 2025

Approved: