

**MINUTES
MIDDLEBOROUGH
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
3/11/2025**

Members Present: Larissa Hallgren, Chip Mangio, Mike Maddigan, Wally Glendye, Nathan Demers, Kristopher Belken

Chairman Larissa Hallgren called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Old Business:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of December 10th as presented.

BY: W.Glendye SECOND: K.Belken VOTE: 6-0-0

The applicant for 504 Wareham Street was not present at this meeting to hare efforts made to find an alternate use of the existing structure.

Joe Ferguson made a draft of historic preservation priorities, as requested by Kimberly French. He was not present at this meeting to present the draft, so this topic will be revisited at a later meeting.

Larissa Hallgren had updates on both the DPW building and the Town Hall cupola. For the DPW building there are two options currently being considered. The first is to demolish only the front part of the building, leaving the back original material that would need to be refurbished. The second option is to demolish the entire building and replace it was a new structure. The first option would cost approximately five hundred thousand dollars more than a full demolition, but there may be grants or other resources to help with historic preservation.

The Town Hall cupola was found to be compromised during work done in 2019 on the town hall basement. The town is currently looking into its options, such as reinforcing the cupola, replacing structural supports, recreating the cupola out of a lighter material, as examples. Mike Maddigan recommended waiting a month to see updates on what options the town is seriously considering before writing an update to Mass Historical.

Laurene Gerrior has expressed interest via email in representing the Historic Commission at the Herring Run Festival. She requested any members who had the ability to help to stop by if they were able to. Nathan Demers said he will try to put the stands for the Historic Commission and the Friends of Middleborough Cemeteries close to each other, so that Chip Mangio can assist with both groups easier.

New Business:

Larissa Hallgren spoke with Linda Coombs, a Wampanoag tribal member about a land acknowledgement statement. Linda Coombs was in support, as well as Jay Mcgrail. The rest of the commission members expressed their support, wanting to acknowledge all parts of the history of Middleboro. Wampanoag heritage day is being planned in September. Larissa Hallgren will bring back more information about it as details are solidified.

Larissa Hallgren suggested the appointment of a treasurer for the Historic Commission, in order to make reimbursement and the payment of secretarial bills handled smoothly. The commission also discussed moving the meeting time, and agreed on changing it from 7:30pm to 6:30pm going forward.

MOTION: To appoint Wally Glendye treasurer of the Historic Commission.

BY: M.Maddigan SECOND: N.Demers VOTE: 6-0-0

The commission received a request for demolition at 12 Station Street, otherwise known as the VFW. The applicant was not present. The demolition permit was received February 13th, which means a determination must be reached at this meeting to not go over the limit of 30 days per the bylaw.

The building was built in the 50's, and has a lot of significance in the community, especially for the town's veterans. Wally Glendye says building has already been partially gutted. The building is not on the state inventory, but the commission would still like to do an onsite and set a meeting there if possible.

MOTION: To determine the structure is a significant structure, but not preferably preserved due to its current state of repair, with the condition that the Historic Commission be allowed to take photos before demolition.

BY: M.Maddigan SECOND: K.Belken VOTE: 6-0-0

Preservation Planning:

The commission will not be able to submit any proposed amendments to bylaws in time for the spring town meeting, but will shoot for the fall town meeting if possible.

Chip Mangio wrote out draft guidelines for ground maintenance at the six town owned cemeteries, using other town's guidelines as a basis. Nathan Demers suggested revisiting this at the next meeting, to give the commissioners time to review the guidelines.

Wally Glendye suggested revisiting the idea of touring the Soule Homestead. The commissioners agreed to share schedules and look to do a visit sometime in the spring if possible.

Wally Glendye also put a link to the Historic Commission facebook on the commission website, and asked for permission to repost articles from Mike Maddigan's old page.

Two citizens requested info via email on if their properties lay within a Historic District. The properties were 321 Wareham Street, 10 Myrtle Street, and 32 West Street.

MOTION: To pay Alexis Cope \$45 for work done on the minutes for December.

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

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:43pm

BY: M.Maddigan SECOND: C.Mangio VOTE: 6-0-0

Respectfully Submitted: Alexis J. Cope, Recording Secretary

Next meeting: April 8, 2025

Approved: