

## **Historic Preservation Commission of Mendon, NY February 5th, 2025 Meeting**

### **Members Present:**

Geoff Tesch (Chair), Diane Ham (Town Historian), Tom Dubois (Town board liaison), Lynn Buehlman, Martha Bush, Kaley Catlin

### **Visitors from the public:**

None

### **Members Absent:**

Liz Horton

**Meeting was called to order by Chairman Tesch at 7:07 PM**

### **Minutes from January meeting:**

Motion: Minutes to be approved.

D. Ham moved and K. Catlin seconded.

Motion carried

### **New Business:**

#### **1. Cawley Subdivision**

- Discussion about the proposed subdivision
- The site plan does not seem to pose any threats to Mendon Ponds Park. There is no involvement at the highway, it would not spoil any views of the park.
- We agreed that the only additions/modifications we would make to a conditional approval would be
  - The homeowners/builders should respect the rules of the park
  - Question 12 should have two “yes” answers
- Moved to approve – M. Bush
- Second – D. Ham
- Motion carried

#### **2. SEQR Form discussion**

- When applications go before the Planning Board with a SEQR form (State Environmental Quality Review), there is a trigger (question #12 – about a National and State Historic Preservation designation) for the Planning Board to engage the HPC in the review of the application. Currently, this form does not mention a local designation.
- M. Bush reached out to NY SHPO, NYS DEC and the regional DEC to ask about this.
  - No definitive answer was found about why this form does not include a question about local designation. However, It appears that

neither the State SHPO nor the DEC has any governing authority over what a locale has designated. The benefits derived from a local designation come from the town or city, not the state.

- *The group agreed that The Town of Mendon Planning Board should be reminded that the SEQR form is only one indication that a request should come before the HPC. We will make sure the board has the spreadsheet of all designated properties and this form should be checked when there are questions about a plan that potentially impacts a historic site/building.*

### **3. Preservation Benefits document**

The group reviewed the document provided by M. Bush. Several members remembered a previous document and letter to homeowners that included some similar language. Diane and Geoff agreed to see if they could track down these and share with Martha for an update.

### **Old Business:**

#### **1. Barben's property – 983 West Bloomfield Rd**

- Chairman Tesch updated the group with the information that the homeowners took our window recommendations to heart and are moving forward with windows more appropriate to the rest of the home.
- Move to clear this application from our list
  - M. Bush moved 1<sup>st</sup>
  - K. Catlin 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Motion carried

### **Prospects for Designation**

- **John Bannister/Calvin Park Home, 730 Mendon-Ionia Rd**  
No update

### **Town Liaison's Report:**

- No meeting this month

### **Historian's Report:**

- Ongoing requests for historical information continue to come to Diane, especially from the Smiths, who write articles in the Sentinel.
- Diane shared that she has created a new booklet about early migration from Mendon to Michigan. She has now created three small books, which include:
  - Forest to Farming
  - Trails to Mendon

**Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM**

**The next meeting will be Wed, March 5th at 7:00 PM**

Respectfully submitted by Martha Bush and Geoff Tesch