

Historical Commission Minutes February 2024

The Lunenburg Historical Commission met on the 8th for the month of February at the Ritter building. All members were in attendance and the meeting began at 7:00 PM.

The minutes for the month of January were reviewed and accepted.

New correspondence was received in regards to the Funeral home which is currently for sale. The parties interested wanted to know if demolishing the building would be acceptable. The commission's stance on this issue would be to send it into demo delay as the structure is deemed historically significant to the town.

The demolition permit for 37 Pearl street was reviewed, and it was decided that the structure, which was built as a camp in 1943, was not significant enough to warrant saving.

In older business, the Marshall Park cave has been reviewed and decided that it is indeed a structure that is significant enough to have a demo delay applied to.

Members from the Lunenburg Parks commission were in attendance, and had questions including what made the cave historically significant and why the issue was coming up now and not earlier, as they are finalizing their Marshal Park project and plan to begin soon. There is concern that if the cave interferes with the construction plan, then they may lose the grant that would be funding the project.

Resident Dave Passios, who has been organizing much of the movement to save the cave, claimed, as a former member of the Parks Commission, that the subject of the cave has been discussed before, but pushed aside. In his opinion, restoration wouldn't begin immediately, and he foresees no interference with the Parks Commission's project.

Mass Historic Commission recommends that the entire park be designated as a historical site, which would also include the cave. The commission's plan is to add the entire park to the town survey as a site of importance if we receive the grant for the survey.

If the Parks Commission plans to go forward with demolishing the cave, they will have to submit a demo application. It is also unsure on whether or not the cave is shown on the current site schematics, and this will need to be addressed in case it causes issues during construction.

In other business, the stones being stored at the Arnold Litch site have been temporarily removed to be stored over winter.

The minutes from the December meeting had been deferred one month and were reviewed and accepted at this meeting.

Richard McGrath attended Medford's anniversary of their adoption of the CPA. Overall, they had completed 90 projects totalling about 10 million dollars, all funded by the CPA. We hope that one day Lunenburg could also adopt this as it could be a great source to preserve much of Lunenburg's historical infrastructure.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40.