

ASHBURNHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION
March 20, 2013
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:35PM.

Minutes – No minutes to approve

Treasurer's Report – we need to contact Lyman sign to get quotes for signs for Meetinghouse Hill, one near Heberts on Lake Road and one for the triangle

Conflict of Interest Training.....needs to be completed!

Demolition Delay – no activity

250th Celebration Committee – there is a meeting on March 21 – Betsy Dillbeck will be doing video as part of the celebration

Update on Monuments:

Emeline Jewell Whitney– progress update from Steve Nims – work to be done in spring

Meeting House Hill NR District— update-Lisa Mausolf – no progress report

LaneVillage – need materials for Mass Historical – suggested that Lisa be partially paid for work she has done

Village Center District Design Guidelines – discussion of items that would be incorporated into existing requirements for site plan review- Allan Small to get some ideas together – Bedford, Concord, Lexington as examples

Town Hall Steps – project is upcoming

Ashburnham Center NR District Sign – need to find out from Lyman about getting replacement

Cambridge Grant Farm Historic District Signs – no status update

Veterans Memorial School – Status update was discussed along with writing a letter to the Selectmen

Other New Business

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Sargent

Board of Selectmen
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Town Clerk
(978) 827-4102
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TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM
Town Hall, 32 Main Street
Ashburnham, Massachusetts 01430

Arts Lottery Council
Board of Health
Building Inspector
Conservation Commission
Council on Aging
Electrical Inspector
Gas & Plumbing Inspector
Historical Commission
Municipal Grounds
Parks & Recreation
Planning Board
Zoning Board of Appeals
Zoning Officer

March 18, 2013

Board of Selectmen
Town of Ashburnham
32 Main Street
Ashburnham, MA 01430

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen,

On behalf of the Ashburnham Historical Commission, I am writing to you concerning the Veterans Memorial School.

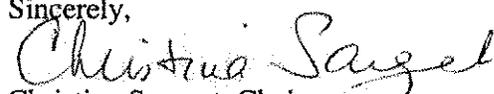
The Commission was approached to determine if the Veterans Memorial School has historical and/or architectural significance, recognizing that the building was built as an addition to the Dolly Whitney Adams School and was constructed in a short four month period in 1949-50 to help accommodate the growing student population.

We did discuss the building at our last meeting, and it was determined that the building does not have architectural significance. It may have been designed to have an additional story added to it but that was never done. It was modified a great deal over time so any significance is not there.

We were most concerned with the significance of the school with its association as a veteran's memorial, and the fact that many school children did attend school there, with emotional ties to it.

However, since the building is not in active use and seems to have outlived its usefulness, having become a financial burden for the Town, we are also in favor of the demolition of the building - with the stipulation that the land be returned to **green open space and not become a parking lot with paving**. We would also support another type of veteran's memorial in its place so as to honor the men and women who sacrificed their lives in service to our country.

Sincerely,


Christina Sargent, Chairman
Ashburnham Historical Commission