

Braintree Historical Commission

Minutes

May 3, 2010

Thayer Public Library

Present: Elizabeth Mees (Chair) Kate Nedelman Herbst
Al Varraso

Absent: Paul Carr and Ron Frazier

Also present: Christine Stickney, Director of Planning & Community Development.

Meeting convened at 7:03 PM

Minutes:

Al Varraso **MOTION** to accept the minutes of 4/5/10, seconded by Kate Nedelman Herbst - unanimously voted.

Mass Historic Commission/Sustainable Review Ordinance: Elizabeth Mees reported she had been unable to contact Chris Skelly about a joint meeting with other Historic Commissions in the area. She would like Chris to discuss the purpose and roles of historical commissions in addition to the points of documentation as it concerns demolition delay bylaws. Members discussed how the Commission may be able to get a better sense of what people think about a demolition delay. Elizabeth stressed the need to for public education before introduction of the bylaw. Christine Stickney suggested that the Historical Commission should think of a survey to get a read on the public – she told members of an on-line program called Survey Monkey that she intends to use for some of the department’s economic efforts. It was agreed this would be a good thing to try and do through the Town’s web page. Christine noted she is working BELD re: the economic survey and she will contact them re: a historical survey – she hopes to solicit help from their summer interns. In the interim members will think of questions they would like to ask the general public.

House Plaque Program: This matter was tabled due to the absence of member Paul Carr.

Old Thayer Library: Christine Stickney reported that Bargman and Hendrie (BH+A) was the final recommendation from the committee to the Mayor. Staff is working on the contract for the consultant to go with the notice of award.

Braintree Cemetery: Christine Stickney reported that Barbara Donohue is out working on the project – she has all the necessary approvals to start work. The contract is for 6 months work is anticipated to be completed by the fall. Elizabeth Mees noted the discussion she had with the Mayor regarding the coordination of the Braintree Resolves and Heritage Days to coincide with a public announcement on the cemetery. Members agreed this could be a good thing if it could be coordinated with the Braintree Historical Society.

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Other items:

Christine noted that she received a call from Margie Kearns about All Souls and their desire to consider a larger historic district. Christine suggested to Ms. Kearns when she is ready to discuss that she request a meeting before the Commission.

Christine informed members of the Highland School approval from the CPA for funding of \$216,000.00 for historic aspects of the building. Al Varraso asked about having a future discussion on the Legion building and possibly having the Historic Commission requesting CPA funding in the fall. Members agreed to put it on for the September agenda.

Christine also asked members if on a future agenda we could have a discussion regarding the MHC listing of the commercial street district. Christine will do some research on the matter and then put it on an agenda.

Administrative Matters:

Christine asked members if they want to meet over the summer – we need to make a room reservation for the library soon. Members agreed they would talk about it at the next meeting (6/7/10).

Kate Nedelman Herbst **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Al Varraso – unanimously voted.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40PM

Respectfully submitted

Christine Stickney, Director
Planning and Community Development