

Braintree Historical Commission

Minutes

June 7, 2010

Thayer Public Library

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

Absent: Paul Carr

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

Meeting convened at 7:04 PM

Minutes:

Al Varraso **MOTION** to accept the minutes of 5/3/10, seconded by Kate Nedelman Herbst – favorably voted (3:0:1 R. Frazier abstains)

Request for Comments/220 Grove Street

Members were provided with a letter from Public Archeology Laboratory (PAL) dated 5/21/10 requesting their comments on a proposed cell tower site behind the existing church at 220 Grove Street in accordance with FCC regulations. Members noted the location is not within any local historic district and no comments were offered. Ron Frazier **MOTION** to respond to the PAL letter that the Historical Commission had no comments, seconded by Kate Nedelman Herbst – unanimously voted.

Sustainable Review Ordinance:

Discussion was tabled on this matter in order for members to receive a revised version for the next meeting. Kate Nedelman Herbst will provide staff with an electronic copy that can be provided to members ahead of their next meeting. Elizabeth Mees noted that she still needs to reach Chris Skelly for assistance.

House Plaque Program:

Ron Frazier noted this item will be handled by the Historical Society and no further follow up is required by the Historical Commission.

Gallivan House/Center Historic District:

Christine Stickney reported on a discussion she had with Paul Carr regarding the need for assistance in locating documentation of the original creation of the district to begin the process. Christine has the map done showing both the exclusion and inclusion of the Gallivan House in the local historic district. Ron Frazier felt there is information should be somewhere between Town Hall or the Historical Society and suggested staff contact Ms. Maxham a former member of the Historical Commission for assistance. Christine noted the time constraints of her department and asked members for assistance. Elizabeth Mees suggested her availability on an upcoming Friday afternoon to look at the Historical Society with Christine.

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Old Thayer Library:

Christine reported that not much has changed since last month; the contract is still being worked on to provide it to Bargman and Hendrie. In addition she added that Mayor Sullivan had a recent conversation with Congressman Lynch as to the progress for seeking federal funds for the restoration. Elizabeth Mees informed members of a recent trip to Washington in which she visited similar buildings that faced challenges with ADA access and public restrooms – she was able to photograph some of the innovative designs to share with the architects as possible considerations.

Elm Street Cemetery:

Christine informed members of a Globe reporter that is writing a story on the cemetery – she asked Ron Frazier to speak with him regarding some of his questions. Members questioned the progress of Barbara Donohue and Christine reported she has been keeping the office informed on her progress. The Chicora Foundation out of South Carolina will be visiting the site relative to their subcontracting with her for the stone assessment survey and conditions. The Foundation will be here July 20-23 at the cemetery site; prior to their arrival they have required a questionnaire be answered – Christine will try and answer all questions with the help of the cemetery superintendent but she may be contacting members for assistance on the historical background. Ron Frazier asked if Ms. Donohue will be making a public presentation of her findings. Christine said she would check the scope of work and if not in it ask her about the possibility. Elizabeth Mees thought it could be tied into the Braintree Resolves that occurs in the fall – a great opportunity to showcase the cemetery and the resolves. Christine also informed members of an inquiry regarding past funding from the Department of Conservation Resources relative to a grant for the cemetery and the application to the National Registry. Ron Frazier noted his recollection of the grant and directed staff to consult with Alan Weinberg who had overseen it at the time.

Other:

Ron Frazier questioned the status of the CPA applications; Elm Street cemetery additional funding and the Historic Inventory. Christine noted that the CPA approved the 3,000 for Elm Street and there had been discussion on the Inventory that postponed action. She noted that both committees made need to meet and discuss jointly – she suggested that the meeting of 9/13 is the same night as the CPA and she will schedule. Christine noted that the BHC may need to provide history on the inventory in Town and how past funding with Town Meeting had occurred. Ron Frazier explained some of the past history and agreed to discuss with CPA on 9/13 but stressed the importance and charge of the Historical Commission in getting these underway. Discussion turned to the possibility of getting the inventory forms on line for the public to view. Christine acknowledged this maybe a possibility if she can locate the forms and seek assistance from the IT folks at BELD. In addition she reminded members of last month's discussion of a historic survey, summer help is available to get this underway if members can forward questions they would like to see on the survey. Ron Frazier urged Christine to

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seek out assistance of an intern year round and provided suggestions on institutions that maybe places to contact.

Christine reminded members of the September 1st deadline of Community Preservation applications. Al Varraso **MOTION** to authorize staff to submit an application for funding of the American Legion Building for the 9/1 deadline, seconded by Kate Nedelman Herbst – unanimously voted. Al agreed to provide Christine with past information on the funding and back up material needed for the application – he noted the Legion Building is the oldest public building in the Town.

Administrative:

Members discussed the possibility of a summer meeting and due to conflicting schedules agreed to forgo a meeting until their 9/13/10 schedule meeting unless a need arises to call a special meeting. Christine will inform members via email of the progress of the various projects during the summer.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:50PM

Respectfully submitted

Christine Stickney, Director
Planning and Community Development