

Braintree Historical Commission

Minutes

February 7, 2011

Thayer Public Library

Present: Elizabeth Mees (Chair) Ron Frazier
Paul Carr Kate Nedelman Herbst

Absent: Al Varraso

Also present: Marge Kearns, All Souls Church Tom Kearns, All Souls
William O'Neill, All Souls Joe Maloney, All Souls
Joe Markham, Braintree PATCH reporter
Christine Stickney, Director of Planning & Community Development.

Meeting convened at 7:03 PM

Letter from All Souls Church – Elm Street

Present at the meeting were some members of the All Souls Church located on Elm Street. Members were given a copy of a letter dated 1/15/11 from Mary Mitchell and Rev. Steven Wilson of the All Souls Church explaining the church's intention to seek funding from the CPA committee for restoration work on the exterior of the church. Marge Kearns and Bill O'Neill provided a brief background of the church and what they hope to have funded by CPA which is copper gutter replacement and re-pointing of the original brick façade. Paul Carr questioned if they rent the church out or accept donations from the different groups – some groups donate \$1 a head of participants but they are small groups according to Bill O'Neill. Marge Kearns explained that the church received a letter from MHC stating they are eligible for designation on the National Register that will be included with their application. The group is presently working on their CPA application that will be submitted by the 3/1/11 deadline. All Souls representatives would like to solicit the Historical Commission for a letter of support for their application before the CPA. The BHC members thanked the church representatives for their efforts and deferred from making any decision relative to a letter of support and stated they would prefer to wait to view the materials to be submitted to the CPA at a future meeting.

Minutes of 1/3/11

Ron Frazier expressed his concern with verbiage surrounding a motion in 1/3/11 minutes relative to the vote on the CPA inventory forms request. He felt the vote was not needed and Christine noted the purpose behind the vote was to satisfy the requirements of the CPA statute relative to the BHC determination under the fourth criteria. Ron felt the first activity was to designate on a map what areas are most significant. Elizabeth Mees explained how at the last meeting, she had with her a map of the Town with structures that both existed or had been lost, pinpointed to show the CPA relative to their request. After discussion on how best to address this, it was agreed that the committee would define an area around Washington and Elm Street as an area of interest. Solicit the map showing the area to consultants for an estimate of what it would cost to inventory all the

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structures, properties etc in the mapped area. It was agreed to table the minutes to the March meeting.

MA Preservation Project Fund (Round 17) – Old Thayer Library

Elizabeth Mees and Christine Stickney informed members notice came out that of an upcoming grant application due in March and we should go forward with a request for the Old Thayer Library. Christine noted it is a 50/50 match with a cap of \$100,000.00 match for a project – it is a reimbursement program that would require more than 50% be matched by the Town to cover work until the state reimburses. The CPA has an upcoming round of applications due – March 1, 2011 and the Mayor has urged the BHC to make application. Christine and Elizabeth will be meeting with the architects on 2/11/11 to discuss the application and Christine will attend the workshop on 2/18/11 for preparing the grant.

Ron Frazier **MOTION** to authorize staff to prepare and submit the CPA application for the Old Thayer Library, seconded by Kate Nedelman Herbst – Unanimously voted.

General Updates:

Union School/American Legion - Christine informed the members that three firms were solicited for quotes on the Union School cost estimates – responses expected by 2/8/11. To date one firm, Hoit out of Hingham noted due to a fire at their personal residence they could not respond but thanked the Town. Two responses are still expected in.

Gallivan House/LHD amendment – Christine noted that the preliminary study was sent to MHC on February 1st – they have 60 days to respond – she hopes it will be sooner than later so the required public hearing can be held soon.

Discussion on Jan. 24th workshop:

Members noted their pleasure with the attendance, however they felt too many questions were asked during Chris Skelly's presentation that changed the direction to individual concerns. Some members had hoped more local officials and residents had attended. It was agreed another meeting later in the year should be held.

Paul Carr **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kate Nedelman Herbst – unanimously voted. Meeting ended at 8:20PM

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Stickney