

Braintree Historical Commission

Minutes

June 13, 2011

Town Hall – Johnson Chambers

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

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

Meeting convened at 7:04 PM

Discussion Historic criteria and significance:

Elizabeth Mees continued with the discussion from the last meeting relative to the need to establish some policy or program in which to review projects. Discussion turned to what other communities have done such as Newton in their demolition delay regulations to define historical significance. Christine had provided the members with the criteria of the Community Preservation Act relative to historic resources. Elizabeth reviewed the three determining criteria; project in local historic district, eligibility national register and the final determinant – vote of the historical commission as to historical significance. Ron Frazier comment on the last item stating what makes it important – historic event or someone historic lived there. Kate Nedelman Herbst adds it should be what is important to the Town such as the restoration of the Union School for example.

Discussion shifted to the need for a demolition delay bylaw and Ron Frazier expressed his opinion that it should be called demolition delay. Kate Nedelman Herbst commented the bylaw is ready to go and she would provide a copy for the next meeting. Last time nothing moved forward because the Mayor wanted us to hold off. Ron Frazier said to move forward – Christine will provide an outline of the process – put on the next agenda.

Discussion - #216 Elm Street

Paul Carr provided the members with background since their last meeting as to the house being on the market and potential interest. Christine noted that she received a phone call from the Culkin family that informed her they had it under agreement and where currently having a home inspection done. It was their intention to have it remain as a home and not raze the house or subdivide the property. Members discussed the benefits of a historical restriction being placed on the property. Elizabeth Mees noted the beautiful mural inside the house in the dining room and hopes this will be preserved. Ron Frazier suggested that pictures should be taken of the inside before any renovations to document the mural and knew of someone that could do it for the Historic Commission.

Town Council actions on CPA Projects:

Christine updated the committee on historic projects awaiting action from the Council to have their appropriations done such as the Town Clerk's project.

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Old Thayer Library:

No word yet from MHC regarding the award of any funding – Christine checked today and could get no answer. Christine noted if we do receive an award and it is less than we told CPC we would need to return to them with an explanation of what is intended to be done on the building with the funds available. Discussion turned to the need for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the exterior work and it was asked that Christine check with the Town Solicitor. Members also discussed the prior Town Meeting appropriation in 2005 (Article #5) and the need to pursue the Mayor to have funding set aside for the Old Thayer Library.

Kate Nedelman Herbst **MOTION** to write a letter to the Mayor asking about the article and the approval for funds to be set aside for the OTL project, seconded by Ron Frazier – unanimously voted. Members also felt there was a need to meet with the Mayor and asked Christine to inquire about meeting on a Monday evening over the summer.

Gallivan House – LHD Amendment:

Christine apologized to the committee but she has not been able to follow-up with the comments back from MHC. She will try and follow-up prior to the next meeting.

Minutes:

Al Varraso **MOTION** to accept the minutes of 5/2/11, seconded by Ron Frazier – voted approval 4:0:1 – Ms. Nedelman Herbst abstained.

Al Varraso **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kate Nedelman Herbst

Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Stickney, Director
Planning and Community Development