

Braintree Historical Commission
Minutes
August 1, 2011
Town Hall – Johnson Chambers

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

Absent: Paul Carr

Also Present: Christine Stickney, Director of Planning and Community Development

Meeting convened at 7 PM

Old Thayer Library:

Christine and Elizabeth provided an update on the project, funding and items forthcoming. Members discussed the upcoming CPC meeting and the need to return and discuss the change in the grant award. Elizabeth Mees said she plans on attending. Members also discussed the need to hold a public hearing for a Certificate of Appropriateness – it was agreed it should be advertised and notice to abutters for 9/12/11. Kate Nedelman – Herbst **MOTION** to schedule a public hearing for 9/12/11, seconded by Al Varraso – unanimously voted. Members also discussed the removal of the mezzanine within the building and Christine said that the Mayor's office and Tom Whalen are handling it and the work is to be done under the supervision of Bargman and Hendrie.

Braintree Historical Society:

Christine shared an article from "Patch" about the BHS having an urban farm at their sites across from Town Hall. She reminded members that this too would require a certificate of appropriateness and if they wanted it could all be done in one evening on the 19th. Members felt they should wait until Paul Carr was present to discuss.

CPC Applications:

Members also discussed the need to seek additional CPA funding to keep Bargman + Hendrie on as the Town's consultants for the Old Thayer Library – they recently submitted an additional proposal for their services. Kate Nedelman – Herbst **MOTION** to submit a CPA application for this upcoming round to continue with BH+A services, seconded by Ron Frazier – unanimously voted.

Christine and Al reported on the bids received for the Union School/American Legion and the need to re-bid for prevailing wages. It is currently out and responses are due 8/19 – hopefully this will continue forward and we will not have a lot of rain. Kate Nedelman – Herbst **MOTION** to submit an application for the difference in the roof estimates once bids have been received after 8/19, seconded by Ron Frazier – unanimously voted.

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Under Old Business:

- *Update on CPA projects funded* - tabled until 9/12/11. Christine suggested the Historical Commission may want to discuss with the Historical Society the holding of historic preservation restrictions with these CPA projects. Annual reporting and site visitations – Christine noted in other communities where there have been CPA projects a maintenance fee for the restriction is given to the entity holding the restriction. Members wanted to discuss further on 9/12/11.
- *Local Historic District* – Christine noted that she has tried to accommodate the wishes of Chris Skelly and with each revised submission she is informed that it is not sufficient – the last email invited him to come down and see what is being proposed and instead his email just addressed how the property is significant. Christine is frustrated with trying to accomplish this. Members suggested just adding a couple of sentences that the significance is that it was part of the original French property and therefore should be included. Christine will re-send with additional language but if not acceptable she feels there is no more she can do to address this request.
- *Historical Significance Criteria* – Elizabeth Mees is still working on this for committee.

Other:

- *Demolition Delay* – Members feel it is ready for starting the zoning process and axed that it be on for 9/12 for a final look. Kate will forward the latest version for distribution.
- *Historic Inventory* – Members asked the status and if this could be put out soon for proposals.
- *Elm Street cemetery* – Members asked that Christine contact Barbara to see if she is willing to do an informal talk in October at the cemetery.

Administrative:

Minutes – Ron asked for an amendment to the minutes. Al Varraso **MOTION** to accept the minutes of 6/13 as amended, seconded by Kate Nedelman – Herbst – unanimously voted.

Kate Nedelman – Herbst **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by A. Varraso – unanimously voted. Meeting adjourned at 7:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Stickney, Director
Planning and Community Development