

Braintree Historical Commission
Minutes
September 12, 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 and Community Development

Meeting convened at 7 PM

Sustainable/ Demolition Delay

Members reviewed the latest version of the proposed bylaw dated 2/1/10. Ron Frazier questioned if members had come to agreement on what the bylaw should be called – Sustainable Review or Demolition Delay bylaw. Kate Nedelman-Herbst was satisfied with Sustainable Review. Elizabeth Mees noted if the intent is to document the structures there should be no issues whereas before the demolition delay was not received well there were concerns as to the intent of the proposed bylaw. Ron Frazier also raised an issue with the definition of “building” – Christine suggested that she would look at the zoning bylaw definition of building for comparison. Next members discussed the delay aspect of the proposed bylaw should it be 6-9-12 months? Kate Nedelman Herbst **MOTION** for 9 months, second by Al Varraso – unanimously voted. Staff was also asked to consult with the Building Department to get a list of demolition permits issued over the last 15 years. Ron Frazier **MOTION** to begin the submission process for the proposed bylaw to the Council and the Planning Board for adoption, seconded by Kate Nedelman Herbst – unanimously voted. Members inquired with staff if it would be possible to have it before the Planning Board for their 12/13/11 Board if submitted in November.

(7:15PM) Public Hearing for Certificate of Appropriateness – Old Thayer Library

Chairman Mees read the legal notice advertised in the Patriot Ledger and sent to the abutters as to the purpose of tonight’s public hearing. Members were given a copy of the legal notice and renderings of the building with a proposed list of exterior work to be performed. No one from the public was in attendance and no correspondence was sent relative to the proposal. Kate Nedelman Herbst **MOTION** to close the public hearing, seconded by Al Varraso – unanimously voted. Kate Nedelman Herbst **MOTION** to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for favorable action relative to the exterior restoration work proposed for the Old Thayer Library, seconded by al Varraso – unanimously voted.

Historical Significance – Elizabeth Mees noted that she has been working on this criterion and will discuss at a future meeting.

Local Historic District – Christine reported that nothing has been done since the last meeting.

Page 2
BHC Minutes 8/12/11

Old Thayer Follow-up – Elizabeth and Christine reported that the matter was back before the CPA at their meeting last month and a positive response was given relative to the lower grant award. They urged to continue going forward with the work even though additional funding needed to be secured.

Union School – Al Varraso reported that the original bid had to be re-bid due to prevailing wages. They will be returning to the Community Preservation Committee for additional funding to do the job – 27,000 best bid submitted.

Other:

The Chair asked if members would entertain a discussion on next month's agenda for reorganization and if anyone was interested in the chairmanship. Members noted their satisfaction with the current chair.

Elm Street Cemetery – Christine provided members with an email from Barbara Donahue acknowledging her desire to give a talk at the cemetery about the preservation management plan. Members discussed possible dates and agreed upon 9/31/11 at 2pm for the event. More planning will be discussed at the 10/3 meeting.

Administrative:

Members decided to change their November meeting date to 11/15/11 for the Mayor to attend. Staff shall send an invite asking him to attend to discuss the sustainable review bylaw.

Al Varraso MOTION to accept the minutes of 8/1/11, seconded by Kate Nedelman Herbst – unanimously voted.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55PM

Respectfully submitted

Christine Stickney, Director
Planning and Community Development