

Braintree Historical Commission
Minutes
November 15, 2011
Town Hall – Johnson Chambers

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

Absent: Paul Carr & Al Varraso

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

Meeting convened at 7 PM

Appointment with Mayor Sullivan:

The Mayor's office called the PCD office late in the afternoon to inform staff the Mayor sent his regrets he could not attend this evening.

Members asked staff to invite the Mayor to their next meeting 12/5 or if evenings are an issue Elizabeth and Kate agreed to meet during the day with him – preferably on a Friday. Members concurred it is important to have his input on the demolition delay proposal before anything can move forward.

Elm Street Cemetery Presentation:

Members were pleased with the turnout and thanked Barbara Donohue for an interesting presentation. Discussion turned to the next steps both long and short term to protect the integrity of the cemetery. Elizabeth Mees noted that Ms. Donohue during the walk pointed out the loss of the tombs that were in the middle section and stressed the need to protect certain vegetation within the cemetery (particular note large rhododendron). Members discussed how this should be addressed with personnel of the cemetery and grounds division of the DPW. Elizabeth suggested a future discussion on what steps to take in the future and Ron Frazier asked if another presentation in the spring for the cemetery may help with the issue of preservation.

MHC Planning and Survey Grant:

Christine provided a rough draft of the "notice of intent" (NOI) required to be filed for 11/21/11 to be invited to apply for the full grant. She explained the grant program and the schedule if award a grant. The use of the \$10,000 CPA funds appropriated this past July could be the Town's match (50/50) and under the program the state would match \$10,000 as well. It is a reimbursement program and Christine has spoken with the Finance Director on how this could be accomplished if awarded. Christine did ask members for clarification on the scope of the Town's application – is to be focused on inventorying the north Braintree area or town wide. Ron Frazier provided some history on past efforts and he was of the opinion that some of the reports previously done need to be re-done by a professional historic architectural consultant

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to be valid. Christine questioned if any of the previous efforts utilized funding from MHC under this program – no members had any recollection of past funding. It was agreed to submit the NOI focused on North Braintree.

Other:

Christine suggested that in a future meeting there should be a discussion of Historic preservation agreements as they relate to CPA projects and whom in the Town maybe to hold them on Town property.

2012 Meeting Schedule:

The Chair asked for this to be put over to December for all members to be present – however a January meeting was proposed for January 9, 2012 – Christine will have a written proposed schedule for next meeting.

Minutes:

All minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8pm

Respectfully submitted

Christine Stickney, Director
Planning and Community Development