

Braintree Historical Commission
Minutes
May 7, 2012
Town Hall – Johnson Chambers

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

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

Meeting convened at 7:05 PM

Acknowledgement - #216 Elm Street

This matter was carried forward from last meeting – consensus was to acknowledge the preservation efforts being made by the homeowner’s – Culkins. Discussion on the landscaping and current state – members agreed to table until next month to see what is replacing the landscaping that has been removed. Christine suggested it may be good to tie in with public relation efforts for new sustainable ordinance being proposed when moving forward.

All Souls Historical Preservation Restriction (PR)

Members signed the PR as required it now moves on to Mass. Historical Commission.

Elizabeth Mees suggested that any PR required to be monitored by the Historical Commission should be review and reported on annually in the Month of June. Staff will set up a system to remind the Commission.

Elm Street Cemetery:

Ron Frazier provided two handouts to members – photos of key head stones, an estimate of cost to replace these stones and a detailed spreadsheet of each stone. At the last meeting Ron agreed to put something together for members to review about pursuing funding to have this work done. Ron since the last meeting met with Mr. Drollett who provided an estimate of \$9,905.00 for those stones noted. It was agreed to put the matter on next month’s agenda as an action item to vote that a CPC application be prepared and submitted for funding. Paul Carr noted his concern with the iron fence that should encircle the cemetery – funding should be considered for this as well to have it repaired and/or restored where missing. Elizabeth Mees will provide staff with the names of three firms to request quotes from MHC preservationist list.

Ron also discussed his meeting with Walter Sullivan to discuss the ground keeping efforts and showed him damage being done with fallen stones with the mowers. Their discussion included the care of the rhododendron bush, posting no dogs allowed signs and the perpetual care funds, Mr. Frazier expressed his concerns with the operation of the cemetery. Discussion turned to the urgency of the funding request, Christine noted CPC entertains applications in September and March – an application could be prepared and put in for this coming September if the Historical Commission so desired – members agreed. Kate Needleman Herbst did mention although historical and deteriorating the committee would be hard pressed to make an “emergency” request. She also commented – walking dogs is not the issue but the owners need to clean up after their dogs in public areas.

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Paul Carr mentioned that he had discussed with the Mayor a “branding sign” program for certain historical areas in the Town.

Old Thayer Library Construction Update:

Christine reported that Tom Cooney was the lowest most responsible bidder resulting from the April 4/19/12 general bid opening and NER Construction Management & Meadows Construction – from 4/4/12 - sub bids. Christine is waiting for the final approval on the contract from the Town Solicitor – MHC has given their verbal approval. Would like to get this work underway as soon as possible – to meet the 6/30 deadline – contractor is ready as well.

Historical Projects – applications to CPA

Christine reported that applications were filed for the Old Thayer Library – Phase II, Gallivan House and the Union School – all have been dealt with by the Historical Commission. Paul Carr will be at the CPA meeting for the Gallivan House, Elizabeth Mees will go for Old Thayer Library and Al Varraso will go for the Union School.

MHC/MACRIS – Commercial Street Historical District

Christine provided members with an email from Chris Skelly at MHC re: the reference to this district – MHC said it is not a local historic district. Further follow-up will be needed.

Administrative

Al Varraso **MOTION** to accept the minutes of 3/5/12, seconded by Kate Nedelman Herbst – unanimously voted.

Ron Frazier asked for additional language to the 4/5/12 to clarify page 2 – last paragraph re: Donohue report. Al Varraso **MOTION** to accept the amended minutes of 4/5/12, seconded by Ron Frazier (vote 5:0:1 KHN abstain)

Summer Schedule – Members agreed to tentatively establish July 30, 2012 as a meeting night. Future Meetings would be 6/4/12, 7/30/12, 9/10/12, Nov (TBD) and 12/3/12. Christine will look into November given the elections and holidays.

Al Varraso **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kate Nedelman Herbst – unanimously voted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10PM

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Stickney, Director
Planning and Community Development