

**Braintree Historical Commission**  
Minutes  
**June 4, 2012**  
Town Hall – Johnson Chambers

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

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

Meeting convened at 7:00 PM

Elm Street Cemetery – Headstone Restoration Project

Ron Frazier had introduced this project at the last meeting and tonight he provided members with additional information on the “Thayer stones” and estimates for each. Members reviewed the handouts and these two additional handouts as to the stones proposed and the estimated cost of restoration. Ron would like this to be submitted as a CPA Application for the fall round. Christine expressed a concern that are these stones considered private property and the families need to be consulted? Also she commented a vote relative to the historical significance should be taken and explained when a vote is put forward to submit an application. Kate Nedelman Herbst suggests a notification could be put in the Forum that this is a proposed project. Ron suggested it be as simple as the BHC is starting work as recommended under the Elm Street Management Plan which includes the most endangered stones and historically significant. Ron agreed to draft something and forward to Christine for the Forum. Kate Nedelman Herbst **MOTION** to approval submittal of a CPA application for restoration of the stone markers at the Elm Street as specified in the materials provided for funding of \$11,000.00 conditional on 1) a notification in the Forum as discussed and 2) that the BHC vote approval of the historical significance of the project, seconded by Ron Frazier – Unanimously voted.

Members discussed the historical significance of the project as demonstrated in the Management Plan, its history and MHC involvement in noting it as one of the oldest cemetery and its location in one of the oldest historically significant town centers. Ron Frazier **MOTION** to deem the project historically significant based upon the following reason; it has been recognized by Mass Historical as a historically significant Town cemetery; it is one of the Town’s original cemeteries dating back to 1800’s; the cemetery’s location in the Braintree Center was the original gathering area of a number of historic events including John Adams stamp act speech; the inventory of deceased occupants as identified in the Elm Street Management Plan all together substantiate the historical significance of this preservation and restoration project, seconded by Kate Nedelman Herbst – unanimously voted.

Christine asked if Ron could assist in the preparation of the CPA application.

Local Historic District – Town Council

Christine provided members with the map and bylaw amendment as sent to the Town Solicitor for the inclusion of the Gallivan and Bean Park into the district. Currently, it is in the Mayor’s office and hopefully will be sent to Town Council shortly for action. Ron Frazier and Elizabeth Mees questioned if the ordinance amended was the latest version. Christine felt she had the most up to date version however Ron Frazier felt it had been changed – Discussion on “roofs” in the exclusion section appeared

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to be different. Christine added if members found something different to let her know so it can be addressed at this point before moving through the approval process with the Council. Christine agreed to send the Town Meeting articles referenced in the ordinance to the members.

Old Business:

**Update on CPA Applications:** Christine reported the Old Thayer Library (\$116k) was approved and is scheduled for consideration by the Council on 6/19 and probably Ways & Means the same night. The Gallivan House has been before the CPA at their last meeting and additional information is needed they return to the CPA on 6/11 for discussion. Union School needs some additional information and will most likely appear before the CPA in July or August.

**Gallivan House – CPA Request:** Christine reported the CPA Chair has asked for a more detail explanation of the BHC vote to deem the Gallivan House as historically significant. The Chair agreed she has can put something together and get it over to the CPA prior to their next meeting. Discussion on the BHC role in reviewing the materials for the roof may be required and members questioned how it pertained to the ordinance.

**Old Thayer Library:** Christine gave a brief update on the contractor's progress with the building, issues that have arisen to date and the projected schedule.

**Acknowledgement of the Culkins:** Elizabeth questioned if the BHC should have a set of criteria for consideration of acknowledgement before going forward on this particular property. Ron Frazier commented that they have done a lot of work however he is unsure if it historical accurate citing the columns and gold rings. Members discussed what other communities do and if it should be investigated further – Christine noted she had an intern coming in June to help the department – this would be a good project. This matter was put over until the end of the summer for further discussion.

The Historical Significance matter was tabled for next meeting

Other: Kate Nedelman Herbst asked about the status of the Demolition Delay bylaw – Christine believes it is still with the Town Solicitor but will check. Ron Frazier commented on the CPA membership and his feeling that a BHC member should be on the CPA committee. Christine noted that this is an issue with the Mayor's office since members are appointed.

Administrative Matters:

Members agreed to hold a meeting on November 13, 2012 and their summer schedule of 7/30/12

Al Varraso **MOTION** to accept the minutes of 5/7/12, seconded by Ron Frazier – unanimously voted.

Al Varraso **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kate Nedelman Herbst – unanimously voted.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:05PM

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Stickney, Director