

**Braintree Historical Commission**  
Minutes  
**September 10, 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 7:05 PM

Other

Braintree Historical Society – Members discussed the upcoming Heritage Days – scheduled for September 23, 2012. The Chair noted the theme this year is “Business and Industry” and there will be a lot of past photography of many of Braintree’s businesses. Ron Frazier noted his participation with the Hobart Holly Braintree book and work he did on a whole section on businesses that may be of assistance to the Society.

Minutes: 7/30/12 minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

Historical Significance Policy: Both Elizabeth and Christine apologize to members that this was not prepared for discussion tonight and will be put over to the next meeting for acceptance. Christine informed the members of a change with the Community Preservation Committee funding application that removed one of the three criteria – located in a local historic district from eligibility but the two others still remain – eligibility on the historic/national register and if voted historically significant by the Braintree Historical Commission remain.

On-line Historical Survey: Christine shared the result report of the survey that had been posted on the Town’s website since July. There were only a 130 respondents but their answers were interesting. Members will review the report and discuss at the next meeting what they want to do to release the results. Kate Nedelman Herbst suggested Mayor Sullivan should receive a copy of the report.

Town Hall ADA Project – CPA: Christine informed the members that the Commission on Disabilities submitted a CPA application for funding to have a Historic and ADA Exterior Assessment done on the outside of Town Hall. Christine showed members two reports that were provided to her as to feasibility and assessments previously done and although they did not specifically address this particular issue – they would be supporting documentation to a new study. Ron Frazier and Elizabeth Mees recalled the last time this issue surfaced and there was a proposal for a ramp to the front of the building that would completely change the historic character of the building. Ron Frazier did note it will require a Certificate of Appropriateness be issued by the BHC for anything to the building. Christine informed members even before a Certificate of Appropriateness that the BHC will be asked to vote on the historical significance of this appropriation to do the assessment – it was agreed to wait and see what is presented.

Elm Street Cemetery: Ron Frazier noted that he submitted the application for CPA funded for the cemetery stones on behalf of the BHC. Christine said she will be letting the Commission know when this will be presented before the CPA committee for members interested in attending.

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Historic Restrictions: Christine reported on a conversation she had relative to CPA funds and the need for restrictions on municipal buildings – Carolyn stated they should be on the Town’s buildings as well as others (religious, non-profit and private). Buildings like Old Thayer that are on the National Register and have a preservation restriction from MHC are covered by those restrictions and an additional CPA would not be needed. Members noted that would be the Highland’s school, Union School and Daughraty gym to date. Christine discussed how another entity would be needed to hold the restriction since the BHC as a Town committee could not hold on Town property. A previous meeting discussed the Braintree Historical Society doing this and it was agreed to have a letter sent to them to see if they are interested.

Kate Nedelman Herbst asked the status of the demolition delay ordinance – Christine noted that she needs to follow-up on that matter with Town Clerk and Counsel.

Acknowledgement of restoration efforts: This matter had been carried forward as it related to 216 Elm Street and should the BHC start an effort to acknowledge these efforts. Some members noted they have only seen the exterior and would be interested in the interior. Paul Carr noted the house is proposed to be on the Gardner’s Guild tour on December 2, 2012 and perhaps members should take the tour to see the inside. Paul Carr commented what would the BHC be recognizing since there has been work but not all “restoration” work to return the structure to its original state? Members discussed the whole issue of recognition and if this was something they wanted to begin and much conversation it was agreed to wait on moving forward on this issue at this time.

Old Thayer Library: Christine noted the work is done and the preservation restriction has been signed awaiting it be recorded at the registry of deeds. Once recorded the completion report can be submitted to MHC for the Town’s reimbursement of \$45,000.00 under the grant. Christine had hoped to use BH+A for the second phase but Town Counsel has determined that we need to put out again another RFP for this service rather than amend the contract. This will be time consuming and more than likely the work will not go forward this fall. Christine raised the issue of the front doors and showed the committee historical pictures and how this should be handled since the doors there today are not the original. Elizabeth suggested an add alternate to the bidding packet would be the best opportunity as to funding. Paul Carr questioned the door frame and foyer if that would be considered exterior and be part of the project. Elizabeth noted the foyer is interior and the frame would be a wait and see but more than likely part of the door restoration. Elizabeth envisioned the windows first, front entry doors second and thirdly the foyer. She noted other projects that have provided the look as it was but has taken into consideration the look, function and economics of the restoration – that is something we would BH+A to do. Christine said she would talk with BH+A on this issue.

Kate Nedelman Herbst **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ron Frazier – Unanimously voted. Meeting adjourned at 8:05PM

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Stickney, Director  
Planning and Community Development