

Braintree Historical Commission
Minutes
November 4, 2013
Conference Room – Thayer Public Library

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

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

Meeting convened at 7:03 PM

New Business:

Local Historic District Amendment: Christine reported that the language of the bylaw and the amended map were forwarded to the Mayor's office since the last meeting for Council action. We will need to stay on this to get it to Council – members agreed to contact the Mayor.

Old Business:

First Congregational Church/Adams Park: Christine reported the Memorandum of Agreement was finally signed and recorded for the development of the park to move forward with CPA funding – hopefully they can start in the spring.

Elm Street Cemetery: The CPA committee recommended additional funding of \$7,500 to have a number of stones excavated out of the ground and set on wooden pallets for restoration in the next round of funding. The Council will be reviewing and hopefully acting on the request on 11/6/13. Paul Carr reported that he visited the site to look at the lighting issue discussed last month. He noted 3 poles appear to be able to handle a light – he cited their location and the pros and cons of the surrounding area of each pole. Ron Frazier commented the real problem is at the back of the bank where vandalism has occurred. Paul Carr asked if decorative street lights like the ones used in the downtown areas could be installed around the perimeter – he questioned how much each light may cost – Christine can check the cost per the last PWED in the landing. Members next discussed an option for only one motion light in certain areas as a more cost saving option. Elizabeth Mees noted that there is now on the market a high “pitch” alarm sensitive to only adolescent hearing that is being used by the federal government for some of their projects. Members agreed this should be looked into but also they need to get Mayor Sullivan out on site to see firsthand these issues. Also it was agreed to ask him to come to a meeting to discuss how to get the Town/Mayor can behind working on the cemetery in addition to the physical improvement underway with the stones. Ron Frazier commented an event is needed and should be spearheaded by the Mayor to get the word out on what is going on in the cemetery. In summary members discussed looking into the alarm, get maintenance done as asked last summer (loom/seeding) and more attention to how the cemetery is cared for by the grounds crew.

Gallivan House Preservation Restriction: Christine reported the CPA committee is trying to work with the Braintree Historical Society to get a restriction on the property issues have arisen with the bank that is causing problems – Attorney Carl Johnson is working with the BHS to resolve the issues.

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Sustainable Delay Bylaw: no update available.

Other:

Paul Carr asked if we could speak with the grant writer to see if there are any grants for historic grave yards – Christine will reach out to her.

Elizabeth Mees asked if we can get an update on the historic inventory project for the next meeting.

Administrative:

Meeting Schedule for 2014: Christine provide a list of dates to members to review and asked for their vote to accept so that she may reserve the rooms. Kate Nedelman Herbst **MOTION** to approve the dates for meetings in 2014, seconded by Ron Frazier – unanimously voted.

Ron Frazier **MOTION** to accept the minutes of 10/7/13, seconded by Paul Carr – unanimously voted.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:52PM

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Stickney, Director
Planning and Community Development