

Braintree Historical Commission
Minutes
Monday, November 4, 2014
Johnson Chambers – Braintree Town Hall

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 7:05 PM

New Business:

Discover Quincy Visitor Guide/Beyond Quincy Section – Christine provided members with two brochures from the City of Quincy that are used for tourism. At a recent meeting, Margaret Laforest editor of the brochure asked her about the Local Historic Commission and the Historical Society providing additional information for the “Beyond Quincy” section – currently there is a small piece on the Bean Museum and the Thayer House. Christine asked members if there was other places of interest for example the Elm Street Cemetery that they would like to include. The Chair suggested members think about this and we will discuss at the next meeting.

BHS Historic House Plaque Program – Chris Barney – the Chair reported that he was unable to attend and hopefully can come to the next meeting.

Old Business:

Elm Street Cemetery – Christine reported that the Town Council approved the funding for Phase II of the gravestone restoration on 10/21/14. The office is working on getting the contract signed – the project was awarded to Colonial Stone. Ron Frazier noted that there was quite a bit of trash in the cemetery and could we get someone to clean it up. Christine mentioned that the Council questioned her on the next steps and the members discussed the fence should be the next phase to be addressed. Christine asked members for assistance as to if they want the original fence replaced/repair or something that looks like the original or should the wall and fence be a project together. Al Varraso noted he feels the wall needs to be repointed and would only make sense to do that in conjunction with the fence which he believes is cast iron rather than wrought iron. Discussion on how to proceed, if a consultant should come in and do an assessment or if we should just bid the work out. Members agreed it should be a CPA application for the March 2015 application period. Christine noted the work load of her office and any assistance would be appreciated to get an application together. Members suggested perhaps funding for a consultant to do the work would be better.

Progress report on the building assessment for Town Hall & Roof Project – Members were updated on the progress of the assessment report and the need to perhaps have a joint meeting with the Commission on Disabilities to discuss a proposed option for universal accessibility in the area of the portico of Town Hall. Elizabeth mentioned that we should ask Jack Glassman (BH+A) to attend the meeting to address questions that may arise – if he is available for the next meeting Christine was directed to see if we can meet jointly for part of the meetings. Christine noted that the final report should be forthcoming as to the entire exterior assessment – a recent change in process due to the

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failing roof and the damage from recent rain storms shifted Tom Whalen's focus to address this as soon as possible. An Invitation for Bid (IFB) was solicited and 8 firms' submitted bids – just today the project was awarded to Stanley Roofing out of Ipswich and there is an aggressive schedule for completion by 12/31/14 so work start shortly.

Old Thayer Library – Phase II & III update – The members commented how pleased they are with the front doors – they look very nice. Christine did mention an on-going issue concerning her with the access through the doors and the use of the windows for electrical cords to service the Farmer's Market on Saturdays now that they are complete. Other members also mentioned the number of people that have been in the building since the doors are left open during the event and the Town is liable if someone is hurt – there should be no public access while under construction. Christine noted there should be something address before next year's season to provide the Farmer's market with electrical service outside the building. Elizabeth noted that entire site should be a consideration now that Phase III will be forthcoming and if the universal access of the Town Hall is modified – members agreed the parking lot needs attention and events should be better coordinated – the example cited was the farmer's market, charity run and Thayer open house all occurring at the same time and the parking was difficult. It was suggested that this be discussed with Mayor Sullivan. Christine noted that the office is waiting for the BH+A contract to be returned – she is concerned that they may not make the deadline for the MHC grant application.

Other – Al Varraso asked if attention could be given to the Union School Historic Assessment the building is falling down and it needs attention as soon as possible. Kate Nedelman Herbst also questioned the status of the Demolition Delay bylaw – discussion turned to the Cochato Club being on the market and if that is torn down people will have issues. Members asked Christine to follow-up with the Town Solicitor on the status.

Administrative:

Kate Nedelman Herbst **MOTION** to approve the 2015 BHC meeting schedule, seconded by Al Varraso – unanimously voted.

Kate Nedelman Herbst **MOTION** to approve the amended minutes of 11/4/13 seconded by Paul Carr – unanimously voted. Al Varraso **MOTION** to approve the amended minutes of 6/9/14 seconded by Kate Nedelman Herbst – unanimously voted. Ron Frazier **MOTION** to approve the minutes of 9/8/14 seconded by Al Varraso – unanimously voted.

Ron Frazier **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Al Varraso – unanimously voted.

Meeting adjourned at 8PM

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Stickney, Director
Planning and Community Development