

Braintree Historical Commission  
Minutes  
**Monday, March 2, 2015**  
Johnson Chambers – Braintree Town Hall

**Present:** Elizabeth Mees (Chair) Al Varraso  
Ron Frazier Paul Carr

**Absent:** Kate Nedelman-Herbst

**Also Present:** Chris Barney – Braintree Historical Society (BHS)  
Christine Stickney, Director of Planning and Community Development

Meeting convened at 7pm

BHS Historic House Plaque Program update – Chris Barney from the BHS was present and brought with him two samples of the signs (12"x16") and (10"x14"). Ron Frazier commented that he thought the commission agreed no names on the plaques only original dates. Elizabeth Mees comment the BHS felt if documented through the Electra Trish report or our Inventory forms of who actually resided there it would be ok to put the name on. After some discussion, Al Varraso **MOTION** to approve the design of the sign conditional that two sizes were made available and that name could be added if researched in the Town's inventory forms or the Electra Trish inventory report, seconded by Elizabeth Mees – discussion: Ron Frazier commented there should be no names and if there is documentation for 20 locations that would be all he knows about and the more you add makes it difficult to read. Elizabeth Suggested starting with those 20 homes to solicit interest in purchasing the signs. Chris Barney was asked about the cost and he said the BHS would be selling them for \$80 members and \$100 non-members. Paul Carr commented he felt it would be labor intensive to add the names and asked wasn't the original intent to make some money for the BHS? The Chair called for the **VOTE** 3:0:1 (RF abstains). Elizabeth Mees said she would draft a letter to the BHS to formalize the agreement discussed tonight relative to the Historic Plaque Program. Ron Frazier asked what the life expectancy of these signs was and Chris responded – 20 years. Members discussed the location of the sign and how it should be in the same place for each house visible from the street.

Old Thayer Library – Phase III - Christine reminded the members we have two on-going projects; a historical assessment of the Town Hall including ADA/universal accessibility issues and the second project Old Thayer Library Phase III – exterior ADA accessibility. So as these have progressed she and Elizabeth have been looking at more bird's eye view to connect the accessibility issue between the two buildings since their use will be connected. As far as Old Thayer it has been agreed that the front entrance is ornamental (emergency access) and the daily used entrance will be in the rear. The Town Hall is in need of ADA access to the first floor (main level) to access most public offices without traveling through Cahill. Elizabeth discussed the need for a program that 1) looks at the entire campus 2) accessibility with minimal maintenance that is universal for all to use 3) connects the buildings not only physically but by use. Using handouts members discussed the potential alternatives that perhaps the architect should go back and refine. Paul Carr questioned the use of an earthen berm between the buildings with different heights would be asymmetrical unappealing from Washington Street. Members discussed separation of the two parking lots – Christine noted this would be a good thing – employees to the rear and the spaces in front of the building for the public –

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Elm Street Cemetery – Christine reported that the stone work has stopped for the season and will start up again in the spring. She said that Frank Drollet of Colonial Stone mentioned there are some trees that should come down before they fall down in a storm over the stones. When the weather improves Christine will speak with DPW and see what can be done. The fence is in need of attention but Christine said that the department's work load has become very heavy and she can't work on the application now perhaps in the fall. Quotes need to be obtained and a CPA application put together.

Discover Quincy Visitor Guide – Christine informed members she had been contacted to see if the Braintree Historical Commission would consider allowing the visitor's guide to promote historical attractions in Braintree. There is no cost to this but they would note them for those interested in the history of Quincy and Braintree since they were once one community. Members suggested Elm Street Cemetery and Adams Kiosk would be nice attractions and should be suggested.

Updates –

- Town Hall Roof – work has been continuing on the roof about 95% done should be completed by the next meeting.
- John Adams Park – staff hasn't heard anything as of the meeting.

Other –

Members asked about the John Scott Nursing home and what is proposed for over there – former Smith home to remain.

Minutes –

Ron Frazier **MOTION** to accept the minutes 12/1/14 and 1/5/15 seconded to Paul Carr – unanimously voted

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Stickney, Director  
Planning and Community Development