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WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

AUGUST 25, 2020

KING OAK HILL PARK PAVILION

EMERY LANE, WEYMOUTH

MINUTES

PRESENT: Jim Clarke, Chair; Jenn Weiss-Donovan; Mark Schneider; Cathy Torrey (on phone)

ALSO PRESENT: Eric Schneider, Principal Planner

NOT PRESENT: Mike Murphy

Chair Clarke called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM, noting that Cathy Torrey is participating by phone.

MINUTES: The minutes of June 23, 2020 were reviewed, no amendments were proposed. Mark Schneider moved to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Jenn Weiss-Donovan and voted with Cathy Torrey abstaining.

FRANCER BUILDING REDEVELOPMENT: Wharf Associates is proposing to develop 84 units of residential housing in the former George E. Keith Factory building. They intend to do an historic rehabilitation of the building exterior and are planning to nominate the building to the National Register of Historic Places and apply for the Massachusetts State Historic Tax Program. They are requesting a letter of support from the commission. Eric Schneider reviewed the plans and distributed plans of the proposal. Jim Clarke noted that the construction date on the exterior of the building should be restored on the new facade and hoped that the developer might donate funds to assist in the preparation of the Jackson Square National Register nomination as recommended in the town Preservation Plan. Mr. Clarke distributed a support letter to review and discussed several edits that he made to the draft. Mark Schneider motioned to endorse the letter. seconded by Cathy Torrey and approved unanimously.

CHET KEVITT AWARD: Jim Clarke stated that we should try to hold the event this fall if a meeting could be arranged under Covid-19 guidelines. Cathy Torrey suggested that the event be held at the Emery Estate since Ed Walker was very supportive of efforts to purchase the property and save the building. Eric and Jim stated that they would draft a letter to Ed's brother, Charles, and coordinate with the Mayor's Office. Mark suggested a tentative date of October 6 and that we hold our meeting after the event.

WESSAGUSSETT SITE SIGNAGE REPORT: Mark Schneider reported that he met with Andrew Hultin from the Park Department on August 24 and that Andrew had funding for signs at various

parks, including the Wessagussett site. Mark has proposed three signs; first about the Massachusetts Tribe, second about the Weston colony and Gorges settlement; and the third about the Hull settlement and the incorporation of the town of Weymouth. Mark expected the signs to be completed within the year. He stated that he would forward the draft text to members for their review and comments.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES REPORT: Jim Clarke stated that the event on the branches is on hold but that he would like to do the event when the pandemic subsides. He stated that he and Cathy Torrey met with Rob MacLean, Library Director, and Kristy Lockhart, Assistant Director, to discuss the role of the commission assisting with displays in the History Room at the new library. Rob MacLean noted that the permanent display artifacts had been determined but that he welcomed the commission's review of the text that will accompany the artifacts on display. Cathy Torrey noted that there will be an enhanced photograph of Great Pond that will serve as the backdrop to the Mishoon display. Jim Clarke said that the process to develop revolving exhibits was unclear. It was suggested that a letter be sent to Rob MacLean stating our interest in participating in the text review and creation of the revolving exhibits. Mark Schneider motioned to prepare a letter to Rob MacLean on these issues with appropriate copies, seconded by Jenn Weiss-Donovan and voted unanimously.

TOWN CLERK DOCUMENTS: It was noted that until the elections are over little action will be taken on this issue.

SIGN PROGRAM: Due to the pandemic, this issue has also been placed on hold.

WEYMOUTH 400: Mark Schneider commented under other business that it appears the Weymouth 400 group is not focusing on any history related events. He suggested that the commission review this issue and develop some events that relate to the history of the town. Members agreed that there should be history related events and that the commission should prepare some thoughts on this issue and possibly discuss it with the Mayor.

Jim Clarke noted that the next tentative meeting date is October 6.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Mark Schneider, seconded by Jenn Weiss-Donovan to adjourn, voted unanimously at 5:55 PM.



James F. Clarke Jr., Chair Date

11/16/20