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**WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
**Council Chambers, Weymouth Town Hall**  
**75 Middle Street, Weymouth, MA**  
**May 22, 2019**  
**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:**

James Clarke, Chairman  
Ed Walker  
Mike Murphy  
Mark Schneider  
Jenn Weiss-Donovan  
Cathy Torrey, Vice Chairman

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Eric Schneider, Principal Planner

Chairman Clarke called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

**MIKE MURPHY - BOOK**

Mr. Murphy told members that his book is finally published. This book is about the highest merchant marine honor that can be received. Mr. Murphy stated Elmer Donnelly does not have his honor.

**PROPOSAL FOR SIGNAGE HONORING ELMER DONNELLY**

Mr. Murphy stated the Historical Society has endorsed this project. The plaque is proposed to cost approximately \$2,000. The students need to take this before the Memorial Committee and then go forward with a Go Fund Me page.

Chairman Clarke asked where and when did he live here in Weymouth. Can you get more facts? Can you speak to Mr. Donnelly's daughter? Lastly, need a location for the plaque.

Mr. Murphy suggested perhaps near the water because he was a merchant marine.

Students stated Mr. Donnelly enlisted from Weymouth.

Chairman Clarke stated if he was born in Weymouth the Town Clerk's office would have more information.

Mr. Murphy made a MOTION to APPROVE and in SUPPORT of letter from Weymouth Historical Commission ENDORSEMENT for Elmer Donnelly for plaque with wording to come later. Ms. Weiss-Donovan SECONDED the MOTION. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**STUDENTS:**

Annelise Rogers

Hannah Maling  
Nathan Liebert  
Daniel Kowalski  
Samual Ferreira  
Mark Merhej

### **WESSAGUSSET SITE MARKER PROPOSAL**

Mr. Schneider stated after the March meeting and meeting with Jodi Purdy-Quinlan, together they met with Doug and the North Weymouth Civic Association who agreed to put a marker at the site. 2001/2003 nicely worded marker at site.

Mr. Schneider stated as we get closer and closer to 2022 we should get more active on this project. This is an initial proposal to what storyboard might look like:

*The Weymouth Historical Commission will actively promote the placement of a memorial marker, in the Commission's name, to mark the general area of the Weston settlement at Wessagusset from 1622-1623, and the nearby dwellings of the Massachusetts Indians. The marker will summarize the lives of the native peoples, explain the Weston settlement, describe the Standish raid on the Massachusetts and its outcome for the Weston colony, and note the arrival of the Gorges Company in 1623. The marker will be in the form of an illustrated storyboard to be placed at Wessagusset Waterfront Park. Commissioner Mark Schneider, and any other commissioners who volunteer, will report back to the full Commission on the project's progress. The Commission will consult with appropriate North Weymouth civic institutions, the historical community, the relevant town departments and other interested individuals.*

This proposal is to get the show on the road and to get the storyboard on the road.

Mr. Schneider made a MOTION to APPROVE the proposed storyboard. Ms. Torrey SECONDED the MOTION.

#### **Discussion:**

Doug stated he lives close to North Weymouth Park; it's a jewel that needs polish. Site is a historic site, needs a plaque to define it. The site is on the list of park improvements. Open Space has done a great job on storyboards. Weymouth Historical Commission can provide the wording.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan stated 20 years ago purchased this land for open space. The Fore River Water Shed is 90% pervious. On Clean-Up Day she met Doug. The first vote at Wessagusset was 395 years ago.

Doug no parking on Sea Street.

Chairman Clarke stated the board agreed, details need to be worked on.

Mr. Murphy research on location for sign.

Ms. Torrey stated two years ago when storyboards came from Plymouth – that Massachusetts tribe is not recognized.

Mr. Schneider thanked Doug and Jodi for their contributions.

Vote: It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

### **OPEN SPACE PLAN – update and recap of 5/16/19 public forum**

Mr. Schneider stated on 5/16/19 a public forum was held at WHS and hosted by Horsley Witton Group. 60 people were in attendance. It was a good representation of citizens, board members and elected officials. 700 surveys were completed.

Mr. Walker asked how important the survey is. Mr. Schneider stated very; they will be taking a lot of information from the survey.

### **CHET KEVITT – nomination review**

Mr. Schneider stated did not get back a lot of nominations. Four nominations so far and two of those are not eligible.

Mr. Clarke stated normally this committee is nominating someone at the end of their career but this would be something very different in nominating a student. This kid is a very good student. The project was part of Capstone but a very good project and he choose this project.

All members agreed on awarding younger people for looking at history.

Ms. Torrey NOMINATED VINCENT CUOCO for the CHET KEVITT AWARD. Mr. Murphy SECONDED the NOMINATION. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

This Chet Kevitt Award will be awarded to Vincent Cuoco at the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **WEYMOUTH 400 – update**

Ms. Torrey stated she has been away on vacation.

Chairman Clarke stated he is no longer President of the Weymouth 400 or on the board.

### **PRATT HOUSE**

Mr. Schneider stated the house is on the list for demolition.

Mr. Schneider stated Bristol possibly move house; cost came in to move house. Ryder says 25-30K just to move the house.

Kate Marshall (staff representative to CPC) says moving the house can be CPC eligible so it could be possible to save the house.

Chairman Clarke asked can he get an agreement from members to make proposal to CPC to move the house.

Mr. Walker stated the Pratt House was the major centerpiece for Pratt Farm and he would endorse any movement to save this house.

Chairman Clarke stated the next thing -- get construction breakdown.

Mr. Murphy asked can CPC Funds be used in this fashion.

Mr. Mark Schneider asked can Historical Commission members get a write up about the history of the Pratt House.

Mr. Murphy made a MOTION to APPROVE Mr. Clarke and Mr. Schneider work together to create a proposal to CPC to save Pratt House and obtain more information regarding Pratt House for Historic Commission members. Mr. Walker SECONDED the MOTION. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

#### **HISTORICAL SIGNS – VENDOR OPTION**

Ould Colony Artisans  
Bob Leonard  
Maine

#### **WEBSITE – update**

Chairman Clarke stated he would like to thank Jim for his work on the website.

#### **MINUTES**

Ms. Torrey stated her name is spelt incorrectly in the minutes.

Mr. Schneider made a MOTION to APPROVE minutes of January 8, 2019 with corrections. Ms. Torrey SECONDED the MOTION. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED. Mr. Murphy abstained.

#### **LETTER TO MARTHA BEWICK c/o HINGHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

May 21, 2019

Martha Bewick  
c/o Hingham Historical Commission

210 Central Street  
Hingham, MA 02043

Dear Ms. Bewick,

Congratulations on the publication of your book, *Tranquility Grove the Great Abolitionist Picnic of 1844*. The South Shore played an important role during this time in history and we applaud your efforts to begin telling the anti-slavery story from our area.

An item of concern for members of the Weymouth Historic Commission is the cover photograph representing an *Antislavery Picnic at Weymouth Landing* created by Weymouth resident Susan Torrey Merritt. Weymouth is proud of the significant role our town played in the Abolitionist Movement. The placement of this particular picture on the book cover, without direct identification, might imply that this painting represents Tranquility Grove and not Weymouth Landing.

We would suggest that in addition to the back cover illustrations being identified on the copyright page, the front cover identifying credits of the artwork should also appear here.

Members have enjoyed your book and a copy has been added to the Weymouth Public Library collection.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

James Clarke  
Chairperson

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Walker made a MOTION to ADJOURN at 8:20PM. Mr. Murphy SECONDED the MOTION. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Malloy  
Recording Secretary

Approve

  
James Clarke, Chairman

Dated:

11/13/20