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TOWN OF WEYMOUTH
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WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

DECEMBER 6, 2020

2021 MAY -5 PM 3:10

5:00 PM via WEBEX

MINUTES

PRESENT: Jim Clarke, Chair; Jenn Weiss-Donovan; Cathy Torrey; Mark Schneider; Dennis Sullivan; Kerri Donnelly

ALSO PRESENT: Eric Schneider, Principal Planner

NOT PRESENT: Mike Murphy

Chair Clarke called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

MINUTES: Jim Clarke noted that the October minutes had not been received for review and no action would be taken.

TUFTS LIBRARY INFORMATION PANELS: Jim Clarke stated that Rob MacLean proposed that the library staff prepare draft text for the information panels and forward them to the commission for review and comment. Rob said that the draft text would be forwarded to the commission by December 15 and comments should be returned by January 15. The library hopes to have the labels up by the end of January. Cathy Torrey noted that the library wants to have the labels in a standard, concise format. Jim stated that he would forward the draft text to the members when he receives it.

LECTURE SERIES: Jim noted that a second memo on the lectures had been distributed to the members for review. He outlined the information in the memo. Commission members agreed that the first lectures should begin in the fall, 2021 when gatherings might be allowed. Jim noted that the library preferred an ad hoc group to manage the lectures. They also wanted to manage Mark Schneider's lecture since they are funding the publication of the book. Members agreed with that and offered to help as required. Mark noted that he had contacted Nic Bunker, who wrote "Making Haste from Babylon", and he would be willing to speak in 2022. His fee would be \$1,000. Members agreed that this would be a good lecture and pencilled it in for the fall, 2022. Mark will remain in contact with Mr. Bunker who will be over from England doing research at that time. Jim said that David Blight might be a good speaker on Maria Weston Chapman but would also require funding. Cathy Torrey mentioned that an Abigail Adams member is experienced in getting speakers and she would contact her for assistance. Jim noted that both the Weymouth Historical Society and Weymouth 400 were interested in participating in the lecture series.

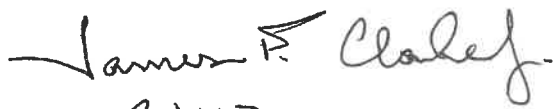
TOWN CLERK DOCUMENTS: Jim said that the Human Resources Department had contacted the Clerk's Office about digitizing documents as part of work that they were doing. Jim spoke to HR and requested that the WHC be included in any further action on this item. We still hope to resume this activity in the new year.

FIRST CHURCH RESIDING INVESTIGATION: Eric Schneider reported that McKinnell, McKinnell, and Taylor had been hired to investigate the condition of the exterior siding and the options to restore the exterior to its original look. First Church requested CPA funding and received it for the study. Cathy stated that she stopped by the church and reviewed the examination work with Gail Tractenberg from MMT. Eric stated that the report should be ready early next year.

BRANCH LIBRARY DISCUSSION: Jim stated that the Mayor decided to close the North and East Weymouth branches since the main library has reopened. Jim noted that there was no public input but that the NWCA was gathering comments on future uses for the North Weymouth branch to be forwarded to the Mayor. Cathy said that the Library Trustees had not been consulted on the decision. Jim proposed that a letter be sent to the Mayor requesting that the WHC be involved in discussions on the future use of the grounds and building as it is a contributing structure to the Sea Street National Register District. Town Council member Pascale Burga noted her concern over future use of the building. It was suggested that copies of the letter go to the Town Council, Library Trustees, and NWCA. A motion to prepare and send the letter was made by Mark Schneider, seconded by Dennis Sullivan and passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Wessagussett site signage. Mark reported that new text had been prepared by Andrew Hultin with input from a member of the Massachusetts Tribe. Mark is reviewing the text and will forward it to members.
2. Susan Merritt abolition picnic painting. Jim stated that WestonGraphics had access to a high resolution image of the painting. Cathy stated that we need to determine the type of frame to be used in order to get a better idea of the cost. Plans are moving forward to get the painting for the library and suggesting that the School Department place one at the new Chapman School. Jim will prepare a letter to be sent to the School Department.
3. Next Meeting: February 9, 2021.
4. ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Jenn and seconded by Dennis to adjourn and was voted unanimously at 6PM.


CHAIR