

2023 SEP -8 PM 4: 08

TOWN OF WEYMOUTH, MA.
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 27, 2023 - 6:30 PM
TOWN HALL
75 MIDDLE STREET, WEYMOUTH, MA.

Present: Jim Clarke, Dennis Sullivan, Kerri Donnelly, Cathy Torrey, Jenn Donovan, Mark Schneider, Steve McCloskey
Staff: Eric Schneider

1. Chet Kevitt Award - Jim called the meeting to order at 6:45. He introduced Rob MacLean, Library Director, and Heather Bachman, Assistant Director, who were present to receive the Chet Kevitt award. The award is given annually by the commission for outstanding efforts to preserve and promote the history of the town. Jim also introduced new commission member Steve McCloskey and acknowledged Dennis Sullivan, who was attending his last meeting as a commission member. Jim thanked Dennis for his work, particularly on identifying structures for the demolition delay list. Jim turned the presentation over to Cathy, who is also the chair of the Tufts Library Trustees.

Cathy noted that the new library has a dedicated history room, archival records storage area, and Weymouth related paintings and sculptures throughout the building. She thanked Rob for efforts to preserve the Fogg Library and encourage the donation of paintings and tiles that adorn that building. She stated that Rob and Heather worked with the commission to host three sets of lectures on Weymouth history in 2021 and 2022. Library staff recently worked with the Abigail Adams Historical Society to host two lectures during Women's History Month in March, 2023. Kerri commented that a focus on history isn't a normal part of the library's mission. Rob has made preserving history part of the work for his staff. Cathy mentioned that this includes acquiring a letter written by Abigail Adams.

Rob thanked the commission for the award and said that it rightfully goes to all his staff who make history part of the library's focus. He thanked the CPC for funding several history related

requests like digitizing newspapers and town reports for easier public access. Jim presented Rob and Heather with a plaque and noted that his name would be added to the other recipients noted on the board outside the Mayor's Office. Jim called a five minute recess.

2. Minutes - A motion was made by Cathy, seconded by Dennis, to approve the May 23, 2023 minutes. So voted unanimously.

3. Fogg Library - Jim stated that the 125th anniversary of the Fogg Library opening would be celebrated in September. There will be an open house and two lectures, one on the stained glass windows and the second on the building architecture and the 2013 renovation. The commission is working with the library on the second lecture.

4. Newsletter - Kerri noted that the next edition will be out next week. Cathy is completing a story on the Newell Playground rededication. New story ideas and authors are encouraged.

5. Historic House Signs - Eric reported that all the signs on order have been finished. After discussion it was agreed to send the demolition delay additions letter to the Front Street district first and then send the promo for the house signs in September. Eric mentioned that ninety letters will be sent. The commission plans to promote this in the newsletter as well.

6. Development Update - Although most of the work at 88 Pleasant Street is complete, the developer has promised that the archway will be installed. It was suggested to do a newsletter story on the new apartments at the Keith Shoe building on Wharf Street.

7. CPC - Cathy reported that there were no new meetings scheduled. Jim stated that the request for funds to restore the 1853 Walling map of Weymouth was approved.

8. Cemetery Commission - Jim reported that there was a meeting in late May. The DPW gave updates on work and stated that signs similar to the Ashwood Cemetery sign will be erected at the other town cemeteries. George Pontes reported that a ceremony is being planned for a drummer at the battle of Waterloo who is buried in Ashwood Cemetery. This is being coordinated with the British government and is planned for the fall.

9. Emery Estate - Jenn reported on the first meeting of the committee and mentioned the committee composition; mostly town employees with several from the public. She toured the building and thought that it was in good shape. They will continue to meet and review possible uses for the building. Cathy commented that two other committees had done much work and that should be reviewed by this group. Dennis asked what does the town want to do with the building. Cathy spoke forcefully about not tearing it down. She noted that several years ago

there was some discussion about doing nothing to the building and then tearing it down. Jenn said that the group will review all comments. Jim requested that we be made away of meetings.

10. School Department - Jim stated that he and Mark met with Linda Hof, head of the High School History Department. We discussed project help through the student service requirement, capstone projects with history connections, and tie-ins with the newsletter. Jim was pleased with the meeting and hopes to reconnect at the start of the school year.

11. Other Business - Cathy mentioned that the Cultural Council should reimburse the commission for the framing of the Susan Torrey Merritt painting. Jim reported on the next events in the fall for the 1st Church celebration. The report from the State Archivist regarding the Town Vault should be received shortly. Jim stated that the Massachusetts History Conference at Devens was well worth attending.

12. Next Meeting - September 12, 2023

13. Adjournment - Cathy made a motion to adjourn at 7:55 PM, seconded by Dennis. So voted unanimously.



James Clarke, Chair

Weymouth Historical Commission

9/5/23

Date