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WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Kelly Room, Weymouth Town Hall

75 Middle Street, Weymouth, MA

September 10, 2019

MINUTES

PRESENT:

James Clarke, Chairman

Mike Murphy

Mark Schneider

Jenn Weiss-Donovan

Cathy Torrey

ALSO PRESENT:

Eric Schneider, Principal Planner

Chairman Clarke called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and stated Mr. Walker is unable to attend tonight.

MINUTES

Chairman Clarke tabled the June 12, 2019 minutes to the next meeting.

PRATT HOUSE - update

Chairman Clarke reported he had hoped to work with Jim Bristol and Ken Ryder. Many issues prevented the moving of the house. The house is probably going to be demolished. Chairman Clarke hopes to get in and photograph what is appropriate and take out the iron crane in the fireplace.

Mr. Eric Schneider asked what the timing of the demo is. Chairman Clarke stated probably this fall or next spring.

Chairman Clarke asked Mike Murphy if there is an opportunity perhaps a college student or a Weymouth High School student (for capstone) could document the demo and what is left inside. Mike said that the timing of the student's projects might to mesh with this quick timeline.

REQUEST FROM METAL DETECTOR FOLKS (name of website?)

There are some legal concerns about how it gets done from Mayor's Office and Town Solicitor. So far there is no final decision. Mr. Schneider can find out tomorrow if a decision has been made.

ELMER DONNELLY REPORT

Mr. Murphy reported he has gotten the “ok” from the Mayor’s Office. The Emery Estate walking park is the suggested location. JF Price will donate a stone and engrave.

Eric Schneider stated he and Mr. Murphy will present this to Memorial Committee along with Mike Murphy’s students.

WEYMOUTH EARLY HISTORY update

Mark Schneider stated he is working with Andrew Hultin on a historic marker for native peoples Wessagusset is located at Kings Cove location and is discussed as the location of the landing in many histories from 1870’s onward. Mark Schneider believes this is wrong. Mark thinks that the Philips Creek area is the site due to the fresh water source and shelter from coastal winds.

Chairman Clarke stated that would make a lot of sense that the first landing would take place at Kings Cove then move to Philips Creek area. There are extant 17th century houses in this area as well.

Mark Schneider stated he doesn’t know for certain. He would like input from Weymouth Historical Commission. The wording should look different. There was agreement among members that Mark’s thesis seems to make sense. Mark said that he will work with Andrew Hultin of the Park Department and the open space committee on the wording for the sign board.

Chairman Clarke stated that it would be nice if everyone can come to some sort of an agreement.

WEYMOUTH 400 updates

Ms. Torrey stated that the group has held several fundraising events, including a golf tourney at Weathervane. The Veterans lecture will be on November 13. Cathy said that she might resign from the group since few history related events are being scheduled.

HISTORIC SIGN – vendor update

Chairman Clarke stated it might be a good idea to get a photo-op with Paul and Joan Rotondo, Park Avenue, South Weymouth, recent sign recipients.. By adding the photo to the website it might generate more interest in the program.

We should send letters or drop letters about the program in Sea Street district and/or Meeting House district to remind people “you’re in a National Register Historic District, your house is important.”

PRIORITIES/GOALS/OBJECTIVES for 2019-2020

Demo Delay

We need to update website: get Sea Street and Meeting House homes included ; and remove demolished buildings.

Open Space Plan

Keep in mind historical significance; open space and trails. Mr. Eric Schneider will send the current Open Space and Recreation Plan section on historic preservation to all members.

Town Hall valuable records

Ms. Torrey stated Mr. MacLean is in the process of having records digitized for the libraries. Soon all important documents will be saved except for early ones here at Town Hall. The Town Clerk is concerned about the security of the documents if they left the building Ms. Torrey asked this commission how do we get what is in this building digitized without leaving this building. Chairman Clarke stated he will talk with the Town Clerk and see what she thinks might work to get this done.

OTHER BUSINESS

TUFTS LIBRARY OPEN 6/2020

Chairman Clarke and Ms. Torrey are working on having a few events sponsored before the new Tufts Library opens. There might be a lecture on the history of libraries in the Town of Weymouth . There could be a program at the three branches as each building has a rich background and this will include illumination of the buildings.

Ms. Torrey will speak with the trustees and put work together on this project.

JEFFERSON SCHOOL

Open house at Jefferson School on September 23, 2019. Renovations funded by CPC.

CPC update

Ms. Torrey stated at the recent CPC meeting the commission voted to:

1. Approve funding request for a pedestrian bridge to connect MBTA parking lot to Lovell Field in the amount of \$182,341.

2. Approve funding request to conserve and digitize several items from our local history collection in the amount of \$7,480.

NEXT MEETING

The next meetings of the Historical Commission will be held on October 15, 2019.


ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Torrey made a MOTION to ADJOURN at 8:00PM. Mr. Murphy SECONDED the MOTION. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Malloy
Recording Secretary

Approve



James Clarke, Chairman

Dated:

10/15/19
