

TOWN OF WEYMOUTH, MA.
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 8, 2022
TUFTS LIBRARY - 7:00 PM

Present: J. Clarke, K. Donnelly, D. Sullivan, C. Torrey, J. Donovan, M. Murphy

1. Minutes - Jim called the meeting to order at 7PM and stated that the minutes for January 11, 2022 were up for approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Cathy Torrey and seconded by Dennis Sullivan. Voted approval with Mike Murphy abstaining.
2. Demolition Delay - Jim stated that the draft letter to property owners to be added to the demolition delay list had been distributed for review. There were no edits to the letter. A motion to approve and send the letter was made by Mike and seconded by Cathy. Voted unanimously.
3. Community Preservation Committee report - Cathy reported that the annual meeting had been held this month. She noted that there were funds in the historic preservation category and that the commission might want to review preservation projects and submit an application. It was suggested that new signs for the National Register Districts might be a worthy project.
4. Cemetery Commission report - Mike said that no meeting had been scheduled but that he was trying to get one scheduled with the chair. Jim mentioned that work was going well at Ashwood Cemetery and the new ornamental fencing and post and rail fencing had been installed. Mike suggested that new signs for each cemetery would help to highlight each cemetery.
5. Development Update - Jim stated that Eric was at the Planning Board meeting. Cathy reported that she attended the meeting on Jackson Square land use and zoning issues. She said that it was generally positive but there were concerns regarding height of buildings near single family neighborhoods. She said that the next meeting would be Thursday, February 10 at the library. Mike expressed his disappointment in the new buildings and their industrial look. He felt the old feel of the villages was disappearing and new structures were too

dense. Kerry noted that new projects were looking like Main Street in South Weymouth near the Union Point. Jenn noted that the commercial market was tight. Jim stated that we should continue to monitor what is proposed and that any new zoning still needs to be approved by the Town Council.

6. Heritage Park - Jim stated that the draft timeline and the history panels had been distributed for review. Jim suggested edits that would reduce the timeline to forty events. Several rewordings were also proposed and accepted. The text for the panels was reviewed. Jim noted that we would have opportunities to continue to work on this but that this would give the consultant the scope of the project and allow them to begin the design process. A motion was made to forward the timeline and storyboard text to John MacLeod and the Mayor's Office by Cathy, seconded by Mike. So voted unanimously. Kerry asked where the existing rock that explains the history of the Town House would be in the park. Jim stated that he was not certain but assumed that it would be preserved. The commission also discussed the fate of the King Philips War monument and the concern over moving the monument from its current position. Jim stated that it was proposed to be reconstructed along the timeline walkway.
7. Lecture Series - Cathy noted that the spring lecture speakers were set but there might be a change in a date due to a scheduling conflict. Publicity for the lectures would be set to go in about a month.
8. Chester Kevitt Award - Jim stated that this would be for calendar year 2021. He suggested the nomination of David Finney, who created the property maps from the written descriptions of property ownership prepared by Rev. Newman in 1641. The maps were used for Mark's book "Colonial Weymouth" and for use on the storyboards at Wessagusset Wetlands and Woodlands Park. Jim felt that this was a worthy project and a lasting benefit to the history of Weymouth. Cathy mentioned the Weymouth Library for their support of the town's history with the lecture series, preservation of the mishoon, and creation of the history room. Jim suggested that they might be a good nominee for the 2022 award. There was discussion regarding awarding two people in one year and it was the consensus to only have one recipient. A motion was made to award the 2021 Chester Kevitt award to David Finney by Jim, seconded by Cathy. Voted unanimously.
9. History topics series - Jim noted that due to work on the Heritage Park panels this was on hold at present.

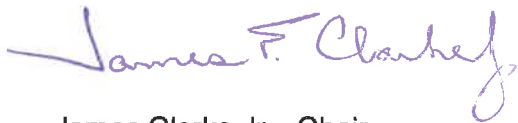
10. Other Business - Jim stated that as part of Weymouth 400 the NWCA would be holding their village day on July 9 and were proposing a trolley tour of historic sites in North Weymouth. The organizers were looking for help from the commission. Mike asked whether the other villages would hold tours and thought that they should. Jim stated that he thought this came from NWCA and he had not heard from the other villages organizing their events. Mike stated that he would be willing to help with tours in the other villages. The members expressed a willingness to assist with the tour to make sure the history was properly vetted. Cathy mentioned that Abigail Adams Historical Society would be dealing separately with this. The commission reviewed the request to have a table at the event and decided not to do that and focus on assisting with the tour.

Jim noted that he was being filmed for a video being prepared by Weymouth 400. He noted that he encouraged others groups to tell their part of the history.

Cathy reported the the unveiling of the Susan Torrey Merritt painting went well. There was a good turnout from town groups. Cathy also noted that the Cultural Council approved a grant of \$1,200 to the WHC for printing and framing of the painting. Jim thanked Cathy for submitting the application.

11. Next Meeting - March 15, 2022, 7:00 PM.

12. A motion to adjourn at 8PM was made by Dennis, seconded by Mike. Voted unanimously.



James Clarke Jr. , Chair

3/16/22

Date