

WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL COMMISSION
December 11th, 2012 Meeting
Francis Kelly Room/Weymouth Town Hall

PRESENT: Chairman Ed Walker, Jody Purdy-Quinlan, Mary Dorey and Rodney Lundin

ABSENT: Don Mathewson and Cathy Torrey

ALSO PRESENT: Jody Lehrer/Community Development Coordinator, Office of Planning and Community Development

Call to Order 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Walker called the December 11th, 2012 meeting of the Weymouth Historical Commission to order at 7:03 PM.

Approval of November 19th, 2012 Minutes

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan moved to approve the minutes of November 19th, 2012 meeting as amended. Mr. Lundin seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

Reports - Town Liaison:

Clapp Memorial Update

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan told members that she and Mr. John Deady met last week and discussed the signage for the Clapp Memorial building.

Fogg Library Update

Ms. Lehrer reported that they have one bid and she expects the work re. the barrier removal to take place in February/March. She noted that they would need to comply with the M H C requirements. A letter has been sent to them on the proposed work and their findings/response came back with the comment 'no adverse affects'. So bids will go out and the work will be done.

With regard to the replacement windows, Chairman Walker referred to the bids coming in over budget, so new plans are to put the work back out to bid but this time the windows would be included as part of the entire project.

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Additionally plans are to install an elevator and construction of an office to be located by the stairway.

Further they may have to change the pitch of the roof, because of the addition of the elevator. It was noted that because this building is listed in the National Historic Register, any changes to the library could have to be handled appropriately and could present a big concern.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan then read a letter dated December 3rd stating that they will be kept abreast of any work to be done, including the elevator - which, again, would require Massachusetts Historical Commission approval. She added that Ms. Lehrer and Mr. Clarke would also be monitoring the work.

Chairman Walker told members that the plan for the location of the elevator is for it to go right up through the main floor/bathroom.

Clapp Memorial Update (cont'd)

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan went on to say that she and the Chairman met with John Deady, developer of Clapp Memorial, on December 5th at the Holbrook House accompanied by Debbie Sergeant, President of the Weymouth Historical Society. They reviewed photos obtained by the Historical Society showing various activities that have taken place at 'Clapp' including the 1913 Veteran's Celebration, as well as, photos from the 300th anniversary that took place in 1923.

Plans are to have two (2) kiosks/storyboards similar to what is in place at the Hingham Shipyard. Mr. Deady has agreed to fund this expense. One storyboard will be about the Clapp Memorial, the Clapp Shoe/family, will include pictures of Central Square - and will be located in the front yard of the building.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan told members that she did the genealogy of Central Square, adding she plans on using this information along with the pictures for the storyboard. She asked Ms. Lehrer for a copy of the paperwork re. the application for the Central Square Historical District - and the findings. It was noted that this paperwork dates back to 1989.

Ms. Lehrer confirmed that she could provide that information, adding they should have two copies on file as well as the working copy.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan said once she has all the info needed for the storyboards, the plan is that Mr. Deady will have them made and when the work is complete to hold some type of dedication. She told Mr. Deady that they would like something similar for Sea Street (Wessagusset Wetland and Woodland Historical site) and Mr. Deady offered to fund that one too.

Old Business

House Plaques

Ms. Lehrer informed those present that she completed the Historical Plaque application for the Bicknell Condo Trust (the old Bicknell Junior High School) in Bicknell Square, re. meeting the criteria for approval of a historical plaque. She said that she has added the appropriate language; i. e., that the Bicknell Jr. High School is a contributing building to the Sea Street Historical District. She told members she did this by using the info in the consultant's report.

At this point Ms. Purdy-Quinlan stated that in the future she felt the members should do some homework to educate themselves on the history of the Town, so that there would be no need to explain 'why' a dwelling/site qualified for a historic plaque.

In reference to the Bicknell Jr. High School application, Mr. Lundin said his concern was that each application that comes before them is meant to meet the criteria created by the Commission that qualifies the site to be approved for a historical plaque. He then asked, 'why didn't the Bicknell Condo Trust submit a completed application'. He felt strongly that a completed application must be required before the Commission considers it for a historical plaque.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan explained that the Condo Trust was originally invited by them to apply for the \$75 plaque, so she thought it wasn't necessary to ask them to explain how they qualify.

Mr. Lundin responded that each applicant needs to take the designation of a historical plaque seriously.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan further explained that they were invited to apply because they were a contributing property to the Sea Street Historic District, which meets one of their criteria.

Mr. Lundin still felt strongly that all applicants needed to fill out the application properly no matter what the case.

Ms. Lehrer interjected that she did fill it out and now it is done.

Ms. Dorey asked if they should amend their application to say they are a contributing property within a Historic District'.

Ms. Lehrer agreed that they should do that.

Mr. Lundin and Ms. Dorey agreed that the Bicknell Condo Trust now met the criteria and could vote on that now.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan moved to approve a historic plaque for the Bicknell Junior High/Bicknell Condo Trust, because it is a contributing property to the Sea Street Historic District.

Ms. Dorey seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

A discussion continued with varied viewpoints on the Bicknell Condo Trust application - in regard to their invitation to apply verses the submission of an incomplete application.

Ms. Lehrer restated that they offered to help them, adding that some applicant's research/fill in their own applications, but wanted to point out that they are available to assist them.

Mr. Lundin asked "don't we meet to review and vote on the applications" and Ms. Lehrer replied 'yes'.

Mr. Lundin added, "there's wasn't complete, right? I still feel we did the right thing" (referring to waiting to vote until their application was complete).

The discussion concluded.

King Phillip Memorial

Ms. Dorey told members that she planted daffodil bulbs at the King Phillip Memorial after getting Mr. Jim Clarke's okay. She said she planted a few bulbs on each side of the wall, adding that Mr. Clarke told her he was going to ask Lambert's if they would maintain it for the Town.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan stated that she came across pictures in her archives of the old school house, in the Town's 250th anniversary booklet. She noted that it dates back to the 1800's. She wanted to discuss how they could clean up the area - such as, digging up the smaller trees and doing some landscaping.

Mr. Lundin pointed out that it would be a major job - and it would be costly".

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan suggested that they might come up with a few local businesses that might do it for the Town, adding that doing this would also allow them to get their name out (with a sign noting they are maintaining the property). She said that DPW could cut down the smaller trees, which would enable the big ones to grow properly and give it a more orderly look.

Chairman Walker asked about the size/square footage.

Mr. Lundin passed out a plot plan showing the area.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan said the area was 20,159 sq. ft. (approx. half an acre), adding it has great potential.

It was noted the location was at the intersection of Washington /Middle Streets.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan went on to say that the Town does not have many Town greens - pointing out that this area got a lot of exposure as it was traveled by thousands of people each day. She wanted to officially get something rolling. She felt it would be a way to expose their historical resources to the public. She suggested that the Commission serve as the overseers and to look into getting volunteers to do the work. She referred to the original Wessagusset site, which they now own and recommended they ask Ms. Lehrer to ask Mr. Clarke on the appropriate manner to proceed.

Ms. Lehrer reminded members that Jim Clarke wanted Lambert's to do it.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan said she would like to see something more at the site - like signage, trees, etc., adding that John Deady offered his help. She was recommending the same signage as Central Square - and Hingham Shipyard, which she described as a big board with pictures and a written history of the area.

Chairman Walker stated that they have pictures of the area, including the old Town Hall.

Ms. Dorey suggested creating something similar to Webb Park.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan said she would also like to see benches and trash barrels there and Chairman Walker suggested a 'walkway'.

Ms. Lehrer asked where the money would come from.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan said they would need volunteers/fundraisers, but emphasized that first they would have to organize and move on it.

Mr. Lundin asked if the area was viewed as Parkland and Ms. Lehrer responded that now it falls under "Open Space", which has different criteria.

Chairman Walker saw it as a very important piece of land, adding it was the site of the first Town Hall - and further, people died there.

It was noted that presently the businesses located there are Wal-Mart, Walgreen's, Stop & Shop, Papa Gino's, and Invernese Construction - and they could be potential sources of funding.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan told members that she felt they dropped the ball there in the past and now they have the opportunity to make up for it.

In closing discussion on the King Phillip Memorial, Chairman Walker said that they would continue to look into it.

Old Business

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan referred back to Beals Street in North Weymouth and the trilobites and purple slate located there. She noted that the Zoning Board of Appeals made it a condition for the builder to bring in experts to do soil testing/survey the property before any work is done. She told members that under the topsoil, they would find trilobites and purple slate, adding they are both found in Weymouth and Braintree - and are from the pre-Cambrian era.

Pictures were distributed to the members.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan went on to say that she put it on Face book and through it was contacted by a Science teacher interested in trilobites - and he is coming to see them. She explained that the developer's plan is to blow up the house. She voiced her concern about completing their research work before this happens. She said that people from MIT and Harvard have also been there. She noted that the site goes back to the 1800's. She said she found Weymouth geology to be very interesting.

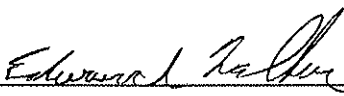
The Chairman added that the whole area is at mean sea level, which years ago used to be much higher.

Adjournment

Ms. Dorey moved to adjourn at 8 PM and to meet again on Tuesday, January 8th, 2013.

Mr. Lundin seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED


Ed Walker, Chairman, WHC

1/14/2013
Date

Respectfully submitted,

Susan DeChristoforo
Recording Secretary