

WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL COMMISSION
February 12th, 2013 Meeting
Francis Kelly Room/Weymouth Town Hall

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

ABSENT: 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 February 12th, 2013 meeting of the Weymouth Historical Commission to order at 7:05 PM.

The Chairman announced that a new member has been appointed to the Commission by the name of Nancy Cameron and he expected she would be present at their next meeting.

Mr. Mathewson noted that she has served as past Commodore of the Wessagusset Yacht Club.

It was also noted she was a resident of Pilgrim Road in North Weymouth.

Approval of January 14th, 2013 Minutes

The Chairman tabled approval of the January 14th, 2013 minutes until the March meeting.

REPORTS - Town Liaison

King Phillip Memorial Update

Ms. Lehrer reported that there was a King Phillip subcommittee meeting and during the meeting they decided to move forward with a 'clean up' of the area and they will be seeking volunteers. Additionally, she and Jim Clarke will be responsible for the signage (language/story boards). They are looking at the sign at Washington Street and Park Street as a good example, adding that sign was done by DCR.

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK
WEYMOUTH, MASS

Chairman Walker added they were seeking help from the DPW for the cleanup of brush and trees in the area.

RECEIVED
2013 MAR 26 P 2:38

Clapp Memorial Fund

Ms. Lehrer informed the members that the developer/Davis Clapp, LLC would establish a bank account that will be used to provide matching funds to encourage property improvements to homes/businesses located in the Central Square Historic District. This Clapp Memorial Fund will be set up with funds to come from the following resources:

- \$1500 from the proceeds of the first sale of each unit in the existing building (8 x \$1500 = \$12,000)
- \$2,000 from the proceeds of the first sale of the townhouse units (12 x \$2,000 = \$24,000)

Additionally once the Certificate of Occupancy for the Clapp Memorial Building is issued \$500 will be deposited for the 'Community Room'.

Ms. Lehrer explained that to qualify for matching funds - eligible work would consist of any exterior building repairs or improvements, business signs or awnings - or site improvements. Applications for funding may be submitted by the property owner or tenants (with the approval of the property owner), and should include a plan/sketch of the proposed work. Additionally the applicant should solicit (3) quotes for the work identifying the proposed contractor, with the use of Weymouth contractors being encouraged.

Ms. Lehrer went on to say that there would be a (3) person committee comprised of a member of the Commission, a member of Davis Clapp, LLC and one appointed by the East Weymouth Neighborhood Association. This committee will be responsible for reviewing and approving the applications/funding. Lastly there will be a minimum 50/50 grant with a maximum grant of \$4,000 - and the applications will be reviewed/approved on a first come, first served basis.

Ms. Lehrer explained that the Commission should select a representative/designee that does not live in the Central Square Historic District area.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan moved to nominate member Rodney Lundin (who lives on Linden Place, not in the subject area) as the Historical Commission's designee on the committee.

Ms. Dorey seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

Ms. Lehrer noted that the new committee would be called the "Central Square Historic District Fund Committee".

Historic House Sign Update

Ms. Lehrer informed the members that she is placing the order now for the (8) approved historic signs, adding that all property owners have been called. At this point they are seeking final payment from one party. Once this is received a time/date will be set up for the presentation.

King Philips War Memorial

Chairman Walker announced that the next meeting of this King Phillip War Memorial Subcommittee is still to be scheduled; adding that at the last meeting held at Tufts they brainstormed new ideas.

Ms. Dorey told the members that at their first meeting those present included herself, Ed Walker, Rod Lundin, Jody Lehrer and Jim Clarke, adding that Mr. Lundin put together a brochure for their review.

It was noted that Dan Mathewson has an original sketch of the King Phillip War Memorial - he will try to locate it and bring it to the next meeting.

Clapp Memorial

Chairman Walker asked Ms. Purdy-Quinlan if there was anything new to report re. the Clapp Memorial.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan replied there was no new update, although she noted that the permit has been approved. She told members that the owner has been very busy of late due to the weather conditions (blizzard).

Ms. Lehrer wanted to point out that the appeal period is in effect - which is a period of 20 days and should be over on 2/27/13. So far there has been no opposition.

Emery Estate Update

Ms. Lehrer reported that the approval of funding for the side road (top of King Oak to Commercial Street) would be voted on 2/19/2013, with the funds, if approved, to be used to open up it up.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan asked that the next agenda include the Wessagusset 390th Anniversary. She referred to the killings at Wessagusset at Fore River Watershed. She stated that the Watershed Association would be hosting a 'Day of Recognition' re. the original Massachusetts inhabitants who lived there and were slain there.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan went on to say that she is working on a documentary film on this subject and would be going to L.A. in time for the Oscars as one of the films she was involved with 'ParaNorman' was nominated. She informed members that this film included many Weymouth locations; such as, Abigail Adams Middle School, Jackson Square in addition to locations from Cape Cod to Cape Ann. She said that she intends to speak to the History Channel producers about her planned film on the killings/skulls, in the Wessagusset area, etc. She explained that it would be similar to an investigative type format that would include filming the skulls, anomalies, etc. But she added, unless we find the actual tomb of the skulls/DNA they would be unable to validate who's buried there. She also referred to the (3) headless Indians next door, which were put in the cemetery. She said no one knows if they are still there, adding we know Witawaumet, Wessagusset, etc. existed - but asked 'why has the story been buried for 390 years?' She said the story is about the western colonials were viewed as the bad guys and the pilgrims who saved

the day. She commented that the Indians conspired against the pilgrims, but she believed the conspirators were actually the pilgrims/the Wampanoag Indians.

Further Ms. Purdy-Quinlan reported that when the Mayflower returned empty the following winter, the people weren't happy and the pilgrims had to fend for themselves. At this time Wampanoag pushed to the northeast. Further unexpected diseases affected many who died there. Due to this Massasoit saw an opportunity to become stronger and move forward. So in her estimation the pilgrims had the power and received all the glory and were viewed as the heroes, which she didn't feel was the real story. She saw it overall as a clandestine operation, commenting it is not a story of blame but just of the cycle of man.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan went on to comment that she felt people today did not like to see injustice - and wanted to know 'how do we move forward and fight injustice?' She also spoke about a 'Day of Mourning', noting that she met with a Wampanoag Mashpee Indian and asked 'Where is Witawamut's head?' In response he referred her to the people in Plymouth, which she is now pursuing. She told members that she believed the pilgrims and Wampanoag's are embarrassed about what happened at Wessagusset. She said when she was younger her teacher told this story and she always remembered it. She felt that these people need to be acknowledged, adding that she planned on doing some fundraising too and would be sending out invitations to both the pilgrims and Wampanoag for the April 6th event. She said in summary (7) died between June and April and were discovered dressed in clothes of that time period. Yet even with an architectural survey she felt they still haven't been officially acknowledged. She was asking for the Commission's support with this project. She told members that she viewed this is a story about human beings, where mistakes were made - and this is demonstrated by the blood and sacrifice of these people who helped to build this country where all men are created equal.

Chairman Walker confirmed the April 6th date of the 390th Anniversary with Ms. Purdy-Quinlan, who added that after she returns from her trip she would move forward with the fundraising.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan stated that she has already come up with a 'teaser' trailer, commenting that she has 10,000 followers on Face book and this will help her get the word out. She also has had the History Channel come to Weymouth in the past re. Halloween/Celtic bonfire.

Mr. Lundin commented that it might be difficult to obtain the Town's support in a project where money/profit is involved - specifically citing that Ms. Purdy-Quinlan's goal would be to sell the film to a film studio; i. e., History Channel.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan responded that her main focus at this point was the April 6th anniversary re. acknowledging the Killings at Wessagusset. She said she also planned on sending invitations to 'Plymouth Plantation' and Indian tribal groups.

Ms. Dorey offered to help with the invitations.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan wanted to note that money was not her primary objective, adding that creating the story has already cost her dearly. She noted that back in October 2001 they had the first dedication of the Park at which time Mayor Madden and Sen. Hedlund were present, along with the Commission members. She emphasized that she was looking for that type of support once again. At this point she was not sure of the size of the event, but she noted she would have a film crew here. She said in 2003 they did something similar for the 2nd governor John Sanders and dedicated a memorial stone.

Chairman Walker noted that at the 350th Anniversary, Chester Kevitt (past Commission Chairman) held a Re-enactment.

At this point Ms. Purdy-Quinlan read a historical letter about the history of Wessagusset and about the support of a memorial for Charles Adams - then she continued to review the history of the area. She also informed the members that she got the Town to buy (4) acres of Open Space there. Overall, she said, at the very least ten people lived and died in this area, who have been ignored and she wanted to see this rectified.

Mr. Lundin moved to that the Historical Commission support Ms. Purdy-Quinlan's endeavors regarding Wessagusset's 390th Anniversary.

Ms. Dorey seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

Chairman Walker commented that everyone has their own opinion about what went on down there, adding that they even hung one of their own.

New Business:

Ms. Dorey referred back to the subcommittee meeting she attended and some of the discussion that took place. She noted that the history of schools in Weymouth involved one-room school houses and wanted to know if any of the members knew if any of those homes still exist.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan responded that '4 Mutton Lane' was a schoolhouse, adding that a teacher lived there.

Chairman Walker stated that Abigail Adam's father, who was a minister, was also viewed as an educator and people would go to him if they wanted to further their education, adding that there were one-room schoolhouses back then.

Mr. Mathewson stated that there was also a one-room schoolhouse on River Street.

Chairman Walker explained that at that time the Town was divided into school districts and each one received a certain amount of money to run the schools. He noted that Abigail Adams could read and write because of her father.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan said that back at that time the high school was located in the Landing. She went on to say that in the 1700's the people would go from church vestries to their schoolteacher who taught in a one-room schoolhouse.

Ms. Dorey thought it important that they identify and acknowledge them if they could - asking the members if they had any ideas on how they could do that?

Chairman Walker suggested 'by looking at old maps of the Town'.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan said she would like to see this item on the March agenda.

Ms. Dorey suggested they might advertise on the Weymouth cable channel and she offered to go to the School Department to pursue it further.

Next Meeting Date

Chairman Walker noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday, March 12th.

New Business - Cont'd

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan told members that a family member was experiencing financial difficulties and she expected he would be coming before the Commission regarding the need to sell his house which is listed on the Demo-Delay List.

Members cautioned her about her need to withdraw from the vote if the party did come before the Commission, based on a conflict of interest - and she said she understood.

Adjournment

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan moved to adjourn at 8:15 PM.

Mr. Lundin seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED



Ed Walker, Chairman, WHC

3-12-2013

Date

Respectfully submitted,
Susan DeChristoforo
Recording Secretary