

WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL COMMISSION
May 15th, 2013 Meeting
Francis Kelly Room/Weymouth Town Hall

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

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

I. Call to Order 7:00 PM

Chairman Walker called the May 15th, 2013 meeting of the Weymouth Historical Commission to order at 7:00 PM.

II. Minutes

Ms. Dorey moved to approve the minutes of the April 16th, 2013 meeting.

Mr. Lundin seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

REPORTS - Town Liaison

Ms. Dorey asked about the disposition of Pond Street.

Ms. Lehrer informed her that at this point the CPC (Community Preservation Committee) has approved the request for funding.

Fogg Library Update

Ms. Lehrer reported that a pre-construction conference was held on Monday (May 13th) re. Fogg Library. Work is scheduled to begin next week, with focus on the windows.

Emery Estate Update

Ms. Lehrer informed members that they will be concentrating on the parking and driveway next week - additionally they will be reviewing options and preparing plans. Presently there is a committee in effect, but she thought they would be forming a new subcommittee of sorts with members that will have more technical expertise.

King Phillip War Memorial

Ms. Lehrer told Ms. Dorey that Jim Clarke asked for her to pass on his appreciation for her efforts regarding the flowers at the King Phillip Memorial.

Further, Ms. Dorey wanted to acknowledge Mr. Russell's efforts, as well as those of the Weymouth Garden Club.

At this point Ms. Dorey stated that if there was no one else to keep the area looking nice, she would offer to do so.

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Next Chairman Walker asked Mr. Lundin about the clean-up work at Middle & Washington Streets.

In response, Mr. Lundin wanted to give special thanks to Dennis Moloney and Susan Vaughan for all of their help too, adding that they told him they would be willing to come back and do more.

Chairman Walker noted that they took several truckloads of debris out of there, with Mr. Lundin commenting 'it still needs a lot more work'.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan interjected that in the past she has used the services of Norfolk County Trial Court (out of Quincy) for their help, adding that their help consists of those sentenced for small offenses who are required to do community service. She said that their work schedule is from 8:30AM to 11:30AM.

After some additional discussion on use of those in the program, Ms. Purdy-Quinlan offered to make the contact for Mr. Lundin re. additional help for clean-up work in the future.

It was noted that the DPW could pick-up the debris after the clean-up work is done.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan told members that she was involved with the beach clean up, and in doing so she used Facebook to advertise for volunteers. She said she was fortunate that 15 helpers showed up. Again, when the clean up was completed, the DPW came picked up the refuse, reaffirming to Mr. Lundin that she would make the contact for him tomorrow (5.16.2013).

NEW BUSINESS

Chester Kevitt Award

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan was recommending Elaine and Bill Pepe as nominee(s) for this year's recipients, adding they were former members of the Historical Commission.

Another person Ms. Purdy-Quinlan wanted to recommend for this year's award was Robert Sullivan, who was 78 years old. She told a little about his background, stating that he worked with her in the past to create the Town's 350th Anniversary booklet. She informed members that his field was maritime commerce, adding he knew quite a bit about the history of Weymouth including the Town's shipbuilding industry. She said that his background was archeology as well as maritime history. Additionally, Mr. Sullivan wrote for the Patriot Ledger as well as other newspapers. She added that he was also a researcher. At this point she passed out a booklet with articles for the members to review.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan went on to say that she just rediscovered Mr. Sullivan 1½ years ago after a long period of 26 years. During their visit they spoke about the efforts of the Historical Commission. She described him as a fascinating man who was presently writing a book on 1812. She felt he would be the perfect nominee. She noted that he did a lot re. the history of Weymouth in the 70's - and he was a friend of Stinson Lord. He had showed her an article dating back to 1916 re. whaling bark, and a story about an instance where a whale had crushed some people to death.

Chairman Walker wanted to nominate Tedd Clarke, past Chairman of the Commission, for the Chester Kevitt Award, based on his ongoing efforts re. the history of Weymouth, as well as his many newspaper articles, TV and books he has written.

Next Ms. Lehrer took a moment to offer the name of John Deady, developer of the Clapp Memorial - which she said she was doing at the request of Jim Clarke. Mr. Clarke felt he had been very sensitive, responsive and generous re. the history and renovation of the Clapp Memorial building.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan commented that she felt Tedd Clarke's nomination was too soon.

Members agreed that Tedd Clarke's nomination was warranted, but would be more appropriate at a later date.

Chairman Walker then reviewed the names presented for the Chester Kevitt Award:

- John Deady
- Robert Sullivan
- Elaine and Bill Pepe (who would be viewed as one award).

Ms. Cameron commented that she had read an article written by Mr. Pepe and was in support of this nomination.

In discussing the recipient for this year's award, Ms. Dorey said that she prefers the recipient to be an older person.

(Cathy Torrey arrived).

Ms. Lehrer reviewed the nominees for Ms. Torrey:

- Ted Clarke
- Robert Sullivan and
- John Deady, developer
- Elaine and Bill Pepe

Ms. Lehrer noted that Mr. Deady set up a fund to help with the restoration of Central Square Historical District (for the resident's in the area). She said he was personally working on the restoration and preservation of the Clapp Memorial and planned on erecting informational placards noting the history of the building.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan moved that this year they approve two recipients for the Chester Kevitt Award. Ms. Dorey seconded.

Discussion:

Mr. Lundin felt that it gets a little out of hand when they have multiple recipients in the same year and that it diminishes the value of the award.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan felt that nominee John Deady was young and that he has time to become the recipient in the future. Additionally, she felt the nomination of Tedd Clark was a little premature, as has only been off the Commission a short time.

Ms. Cameron informed members that Mr. Pepe is ill now.

Mr. Mathewson suggested they consider multiple recipients in the future.

Ms. Dorey said she was in favor of one person or a couple.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan moved to amend her motion to include 'for this year only'.

Chairman Walker took Ms. Purdy-Quinlan's amended motion.

SO VOTED (6/1 - Ms. Dorey was opposed)

The Chairman then took a vote on the nominees for the 2013 Chester Kevitt Award, by raised hand.

The names of Elaine and Bill Pepe.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

The name of John Deady, Developer of the Clapp Memorial (recommended by Jim Clarke, Director of Planning and Community Development).

Nomination received no votes

The name of Robert Sullivan.

So Voted (6/1)

The name of Tedd Clarke.

The nomination received no votes

To recap, this year there will be (2) recipients the 2013 Chester Kevitt Award.

1) Elaine and Bill Pepe of 64 Broad Reach, North Weymouth (as a couple).

2) Robert Sullivan, 26 Eric Way, South Weymouth.

Ms. Lehrer told members that she would draft the letters informing the recipients and to request that they attend the June 11th ceremony in Mayor Kay's office at which time the awards will be presented, which would be followed by a brief reception (from 6:30PM to 7:30PM).

At the conclusion of the ceremony the Commission's June monthly meeting will be held.

Chairman Walker asked Ms. Lehrer to order the individual plaques, as well as, make sure the names were also added to the plaque located in the Museum at the Tufts Library listing the ongoing recipients of this award.

Wessagusset site Update

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan informed the Commission that on April 6th the event was held at Great Hill/Wessagusset and she was happy to report it had a great turnout. Those that attended the ceremony included Native Americans and their sons - including (2) Lacoda Sioux who traveled from Webster, MA. She described the event to the members, which included a march from Wessagusset to the Park, adding all of this was filmed. She went on to describe the event as beginning with drum/drummers who did some 'smudging'. There were also prayers and songs. Eventually more people arrived. She noted that prior to the event signs were posted advertising the event. She described the overall ceremony as a symbolic gesture - commenting first was the land, then came the Indians, followed by the colonists. One of the speakers at the event was Jack Dempsey who spoke about the history of the area. She felt his speech

was well thought out, adding she viewed it as being a healing experience and not focusing on any killing. Overall she felt the Native Americans in attendance were very pleased with it.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan noted that between May 25th and July 25th she planned on launching a kick-starter campaign, which will include asking for donations of \$5.00-\$10.00 for her proposed independent film through her Facebook followers. She said that when she was in L.A. earlier this year, she met with History Channel representatives, who suggested that she do this. Her plan is to make a documentary film to be shown at film festivals and hopefully, eventually, it would win an academy award. She said the donations she is seeking would be used for funding the services of actors, cameramen, costumes, etc.

Next Ms. Purdy-Quinlan spoke about the park, commenting how good it looked, decorated with flowers - with daffodils and day lilies in blossom everywhere.

At this point Ms. Torrey acknowledged how nice it looked when she took a recent walk there.

Re. June 14th, there was discussion about Mr. Blanchard/Permanent Memorial Committee - his daughter wanted a plaque on a park bench, commemorating his service to the country. Jim Clarke originally stated that a stone should not be a problem, but as of today the daughter preferred a new bench with a plaque/engraving with her Dad's name. The dates of June 14th (Flag Day?) or Sat. June 15th were suggested.

Ms. Torrey then spoke to Ms. Purdy-Quinlan cautioning her about soliciting money/donations cautioning that she should not include the name of the Commission when she is requesting donations. The reason being it is viewed as a private venture and it would be a conflict of interest and unethical.

Members voicing their support of Ms. Torrey's comments.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan assured members she would not do that, but added she might include her membership on the Commission in her bio, which would speak about her chairmanship on the Commission.

Fogg Library Update

Chairman Walker informed the Commission that he attended the Fogg Library Committee's meeting on May 14th. Also attending was Mayor Kay and the contractor. It was noted that that renovation work would begin any day now. Further the contracts were signed on Wednesday. He reported that when the work begins the building will be signed over to the contractor(s) and become their total responsibility - re. its care/maintenance (including insurance coverage). Once the work is completed the building will be turned back over to the Town. Its value to the Town was clearly explained emphasizing that it is a historical building listed in the National Register. Funding for the work was also received from the Mass. Historical Commission. Further the contract states that the work must begin by June 1st. Plans are to have a trailer on site. Additionally the chandeliers will be stored for safekeeping - with an inventory being done prior to the work.

Abigail Adams House

Ms. Torrey reported that the house should be ready for viewing by the end of June on a limited basis - with access in the beginning probably about once a month.'

Chairman Walker spoke about a historical letter by Cotton Tuft's that he purchased on Ebay dated 1805. The letter included a list of some type of inventory.

Ms. Torrey commented that Cotton Tufts was Abigail Adams uncle or cousin - married to Abigail's mother's sister. She added that Cotton Tufts provided oranges for Abigail and John Adams wedding reception in 1764.

The document was passed around the Commission with members commenting on the excellent handwriting (cursive).

Next Meeting Date

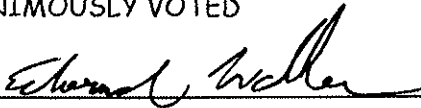
Chairman Walker repeated that the next meeting of the Historical Commission would take place on Tuesday, June 11th 2013 - with the presentation of the Chester Kevitt Award(s) scheduled to be held just prior to the regularly scheduled monthly meeting at 6:30PM in the Mayor's office - followed by the Commission's meeting at 7:30PM in the Francis Kelly Room.

Adjournment

Ms. Dorey moved to adjourn at 8:10 PM.

Mr. Lundin seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED



Ed Walker, Chairman, WHC

6/11/2013
Date

Respectfully submitted,
Susan DeChristoforo
Recording Secretary