

WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

**Kelly Room, Weymouth Town Hall
75 Middle Street, Weymouth, MA**

December 11, 2018

MINUTES

2019 MAR 20 PM 1: 50

PRESENT:

James Clarke, Chairman
Ed Walker
Mark Schneider
Jenn Weiss-Donovan
Cathy Torrey, Vice Chairman

ALSO PRESENT:

Eric Schneider, Principal Planner

Chairman Clarke called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

MINUTES

Mr. Mark Schneider made a MOTION to APPROVE the minutes of October 16, 2018. Mr. Walker SECONDED the MOTION. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

No minutes for November as the meeting was cancelled. Chairman Clarke stated Ed Walker can sign the January 9, 2018 minutes and give them to Eric Schneider for the Town Clerk. Additionally, Chairman Clarke has a list of missing minutes for the past year and asked members to see if they had copies of the missing minutes..

UPDATES

PRATT HOUSE

Chairman Clarke reported that he spoke with Jim Bristol on Thursday at 11:00am regarding the road plan. Chairman Clarke is to have a walkthrough of the house this coming Thursday.

Mr. Eric Schneider stated Mr. Luongo called Ken Ryder to see if he has any interest in this parcel and he does have interest. Chairman Clarke extended an invitation to Mr. Schneider to come for a walk through of the property on Thursday at 11:00am.

Mr. Mark Schneider asked which Pratt owned this house and when was it built? Mr. Walker stated it was built in the 1700's.

FORE RIVER BRIDGE PLAQUE

The plaque has not been installed at this point, need to be done.

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Eric Schneider reported he spoke with the mayor today and the mayor would like a good handle on the historic assets in the town from the following groups:

- Historic Commission
- Weymouth 400
- Historical Society
- Abigail Adams Society

Mr. Eric Schneider further stated if the mayor could build a small museum of historic artifacts he would like to do so; but he really wants to have an idea of how many items and the potential size to consider.

MASS HISTORIC GRANT AVAILABLE FROM STATE

Mr. Eric Schneider stated the Mass Historic Commission just announced a grant opportunity; the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund. It's a state-funded 50% reimbursable matching grant "to support the preservation of properties, landscapes, and sites (cultural resources) listed in the State Register of Historic Places." Grant awards are made for pre-development (design/study) and development (construction) costs as well as acquisition costs.

TUFTS LIBRARY

Chairman Clarke stated he has been working with John MacLeod and Debbie Sullivan at Tufts Library on the removal of the following items:

- Printing press
- Scrubber
- Ballot box
- Wall paintings (3)
- The painting inside of the canoe enclosure cannot be saved
- Native panels (5) are going (on loan) to the Braintree Historical Society, where they will be using them for a show. Mr. Walker requests that the Historical Commission get in writing that these 5 Native panels are on loan only.
- Display cases (as a loan) Braintree Historical Society has a use for them as a loan. Mr. Walker additionally requests this be added in writing that they are on loan only.
- Display shelves – Weymouth Historical Society will be taking these.

Chairman Clarke stated before the document is finalized he will give it to the town solicitor for his approval.

WORK PROGRAM – 2019 DISCUSSION

Chairman Clarke stated in January 2019 this commission will vote to adopt these topics for next year's discussions:

- What do we have in town to highlight as 400th anniversary approaches
- Update demo-delay list? (refer to structures only)
- Mark Schneider asked should try to work out how does town represent its history with Historical Commission and Historical Society in the anniversary - what about a town museum
- No update on Weymouth Heritage Park that mayor is working on
- Cathy, public and private partnerships; carefully done and researched they work together
- Jean noted that in other towns, the commission plays a different and bigger role in town activities.
- Ed Walker said that the Commission should review its duties as laid out in the Town Charter.
- Ed, there was an archeological dig at King Oak Hill and didn't notify Historical Commission; The Heritage Park should have an survey prior to work being done.
- Eric, historic plaques; Yankee Wood Carvers, the last communication with them did not go well. Chairman Clarke suggested perhaps it's time for a new vendor. Eric will do research. Jenn suggested Wilkins in Marshfield.
- At new library there will be an historical rooms. Cathy stated that going forward this commission should be playing a big role into what goes into historical room over the next year as these decisions will get etched into stone. This board should get its ideas in order and make sure it has involvement.
- How to forge public/private partnership – Chairman Clarke suggested perhaps Mark Schneider, Cathy Torrey, Rob McLean meet and have discussion and bring ideas back to group.

NATIONAL REGISTER DISTRICTS

Two districts are done have signs; the Civic Center and Central Square. Should we get signage for the other two districts; Sea Street and Front Street?

WEYMOUTH 400

The Commission should stay active with the Weymouth 400 group and make sure that the historical aspects of the commemoration are handled properly.

CHET KEVITT

Mr. Walker asked can Chet Kevitt clips that he has be put onto DVD's. This needs to be reviewed.

NORTH WEYMOUTH CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The Chairman noted that the NWCA had an article on former Chairman Chester Kevitt in their newsletter which was passed out to the members.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS

Iron Hill Park Development – The commission should have input on historical issues as we did with the Fore River Bridge.

ROUTE 18 WIDENING

Mr. Walker stated the bronze plaque is down from the bridge and he hopes that the contractor that has the plaque is taking appropriate care of the plaque. Mr. Eric Schneider stated he will contact the contractor.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ed Walker –The canoe case sound system should be checked to see if anything can be salvaged. For committee assignments, Jim Clarke will be on the Memorial Committee and Cathy Torrey will be on the Community Preservation Commission.

Use of Susan Merritt painting. Cathy Torrey showed the commission a book on Hingham that used a painting of an abolitionist meeting in Weymouth Landing on the cover and it should have been better credited as a Weymouth scene. Chairman Clarke suggested Ms. Torrey draft a letter to the author of the Hingham book and he will sign the letter as Chairman.

NEXT MEETING

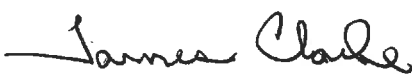
The next meetings of the Historical Commission will be held on January 8, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Torrey made a MOTION to ADJOURN at 8:15PM. Mr. Walker SECONDED the MOTION. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Malloy
Recording Secretary


Approved - James Clarke, Chairman
Dated - 3/19/14