

**Weymouth Historical Commission
Record of Minutes and Proceedings**

2019 MAY 24 AM 10:32

**Tuesday, January 8, 2019
Town Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room
75 Middle Street, Weymouth, MA 02181**

Members Present: James Clarke, Chairman
Cathy Torrey, Vice Chairman
Jennifer Weiss Donovan
Mark Schneider

Members Absent: Ed Walker
Mike Murphy

Also Present: Eric Schneider, Planning Department staff (minutes)
Alexandra Rollins, Observing
Elizabeth Morris, Observing
Robert Wells, Observing

There being a quorum of the Commission, the Chairman called the meeting of the Historic Commission to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes:

The Commission voted 4-0 to accept the minutes of October 16, 2018 as written. Chairman Clarke went over a list of meeting minutes that are currently outstanding. Mr. Clarke has two sets from 2018 awaiting the signature of Ed Walker. Ms. Donovan said that she had notes from the May 2018 and would prepare minutes based on her notes.

Mr. Clarke asked the Board and visitors in attendance to introduce themselves. Those present are listed above.

Updates:

- **Pratt House** - Eric Schneider stated that the Planning Director had recently signed off an ANR Plan for Ryder Development creating an additional lot on Pleasant Street to relocate the Pratt House. Mr. Ryder may also need a variance from the BZA for lot width. The Historical Commission may be asked to write a letter in support. The adjacent historical home at 4 Mutton Lane may be going to auction.
- **Heritage Park** – Mayor Hedlund is looking to make improvements on Town land at Middle and Washington Street. At this point some trees have been taken down. Ms. Torrey and Mark Schneider discussed whether Senator O'Connor had secured funding for a preliminary design. Mark Schneider voiced his dissatisfaction with the process thus far.

Needs to be more transparent. Chairman Clarke and Eric Schneider discussed the very preliminary plans that had been drawn up.

Mark Schneider volunteered to draft a letter to Mayor Hedlund with recommendations and suggested approaches to the Heritage Park project. Mark Schneider made a motion which was seconded by Ms. Torrey. Unanimously approved.

Staff Report:

Eric Schneider informed the Commission that Owen McDonald (Traffic Engineer) and Mayor Hedlund had walked the Fore River Bridge site and selected the site for an informational board and sign.

Chairman Clarke informed the Commission that Rod Lundin had resigned from the Historical Commission effective immediately. The Mayor's office has been informed.

Chairman Clarke asked Ms. Torrey for an update on the Mishoon (canoe). Ms. Torrey presented a letter from the Mayor's office turning over stewardship of the canoe to the Weymouth Public Library. While the new library is under construction, the canoe will be sent out for cleaning and restoration. This to be funded by Community Preservation funds. Chairman Clarke reminded the Commission that the canoe had been cleaned and preserved approximately five years ago. Ms. Torrey assured the Commission that the previous effort was necessary and appropriate but that the canoe's future home in the new library will require that it be put in a new archival case.

Work Program - 2019 Discussion:

Chairman Clarke presented a list of 10 potential projects to be assigned to individual Commissioners.

1. Demolition Delay Ordinance Update: Update introduction with current information. Update list as needed. Ms. Donovan agreed to look into it.
2. Historic Plaque: Eric Schneider will take lead on finding a new vendor. Chairman Clarke suggested the possibility of doing a mailing once a new vendor is in place. The group will keep an eye on out for nice sign examples. Mark Schneider pointed out that the signage entering Weymouth should be corrected to read "gathered 1622".
3. Chester Kevitt Award: Mark Schneider volunteered to draft criteria for the selection of the award recipient.
4. Weymouth 400: Chairman Clarke feels that it is important the Commission play a significant role in the Weymouth 400 events.

5. Website Update: Eric Schneider will review and update any out of date information.
6. Project Review: The goal is to have the Historic Commission more involved with ongoing Town projects to ensure historic resources are considered. Chairman Clarke will work with staff to improve communication flow. Iron Hill Park was given as an example.
7. Open Space Plan: Eric Schneider updated the Commission. A potential consultant has been interviewed and offered the job of updating the 2014 plan. Chairman Clarke stressed that the Commission needs to be included in the update process.
8. Education: Opportunities through WETC and Weymouth 400 to do short features on cable to educate the public on the history of Weymouth.
9. New Library: Commission would like input into content of the History Room at the new library. Ms. Torrey is on the Library Committee. She will engage various historic groups in the process. Ms. Torrey encourages all of the various groups with an interest in history to cooperate toward shared goals.
10. School Education: Recommendation to engage the schools through the Weymouth 400.

Ms. Donovan suggested that the Commission create a Facebook page.

Weymouth 400 Update:

Weymouth 400 will be sponsor of first Weymouth Heritage Days. Four lectures are scheduled concentrating on Weymouth in the 20th century during 2019.

Several fund raisers are scheduled.

Committee Assignments: Chairman Clarke has a seat on the Memorial Committee by virtue of office.

The Commission unanimously voted the following assignments for the coming year:

Cemetery Commission – James Clarke
Community Preservation - Cathy Torrey

Other Business:

Ms. Torrey recapped the annual Community Preservation Commission financial meeting. In general, the State's match to the Town has been decreasing. At its high, the Town received \$470,000. This years it is down to \$144,000.

Ms. Torrey presented a letter she drafted to the author of a new book entitled Tranquility Grove in Hingham and the caption provided for the cover art used which is of Weymouth Landing. The Commission voted unanimously to send the letter on behalf of the Commission.

Public Comment:

Alexandra Rollins reviewed her previous archival efforts for the Town of Weymouth. Chairman Clarke stated that the efforts were substantially limited to the holdings in the Town Clerk's office. Ms. Rollins encouraged the Commission to further the archival effort as part of the 400th celebration.

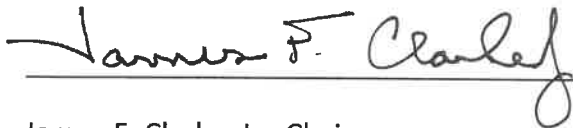
Robert Wells asked whether the Town had tried to use a historical approach to block the compressor station proposal.

The next meeting was scheduled for March 19, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:
Eric Schneider

Approved by:



James F. Clarke, Jr., Chairman

5/22/19

Date