

2023 JUN 28 AM 11: 43

TOWN OF WEYMOUTH, MA.
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 23, 2023
TUFTS LIBRARY - 7:00 PM

Present: Jim Clarke, Mark Schneider, Kerri Donnelly, Jenn Donovan, Cathy Torrey

Staff: Eric Schneider

1. Minutes - Jim called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. A motion was made by Mark, seconded by Jenn, to approve the April 18, 2023 minutes. So voted unanimously.
2. Newsletter - Kerri reported that the newsletter was published in the first week of May and there are over 140 subscribers. She said that 62% had opened the newsletter. The newsletter does get forwarded to readers who are not subscribers. Jim didn't think that the North Weymouth Civic Association had forwarded the newsletter to its members and he would check on that. Mark congratulated Kerri on her work.
3. Historic House Signs - Eric stated that the first new signs by Brian are done. We can now promote them in the Newsletter. Eric said that the letter advertising the signs for the Front Street Historic District homeowners could be prepared. Eric will send the letter to the commission for review. It was suggested that a history of a house could be prepared for the newsletter when a new sign is approved.
4. Chet Kevitt Award - Jim stated that due to the timing of the annual budget approvals, the Mayor's office suggested meeting on June 27. Members were okay with that date for the meeting.
5. Development Update - There was no update regarding 88 Pleasant Street. Eric mentioned the progress at the former boathouse on Commercial Street and members were pleased with the work. Eric stated that the BZA website had been updated and pending applications and plans were available on the site. Eric said that Jim would be getting the project referral forms and he would forward to the commission as required. Jenn asked about the status of the other Pleasant Street property that had been before the commission under the demolition delay ordinance. Eric said that there was no activity with that property. Eric reported that the letter for the Demolition Delay additions is ready to go. Jim asked if he needed to sign it.

6. CPC Report - Jim reported that he was getting a quote to restore the 1853 Walling map of Weymouth. He hopes to present the request for funding at the June meeting of the Community Preservation Committee.

7. Cemetery Commission - Jim stated that he would represent the commission if a meeting is held in the next few months. We would review committee assignments after new members are appointed in the new fiscal year.

8. Emery Estate - Jenn reported that the new committee of the Mayor would be meeting tomorrow. Jim said that he would forward the memo on a town museum prepared by Mark and Jim to Jenn.

9. 1st Church 400th Celebration - Cathy reported that the tour of the Abigail Adams Birthplace and North Cemetery went well last Sunday. About twenty members of the church visited the house, the east portion of the cemetery, and the Civil War monument. Cathy, Jim, and Mary Dorey made presentations to the attendees. Steve Reilly, Recreation Director, provided a van for church use. The church plans to conduct tours during their church fair on September 16.

10 Fogg Library 125th Anniversary - Jim reported that he met with Rob MacLean and discussed how the commission could assist in the 125th anniversary of the opening of the Fogg Library. Rob is having two stained glass windows repaired and he is planning a lecture by the window repairers. They discussed possible lectures about the original building construction, renovation in 2013-14, and John Fogg. This is still early in the process and details have to be worked out.

11. Memorial Committee - Jim reported that the committee met and approved naming the gym at the McCulloch Senior Center for William Begley. Bill was a Planning Board member and very active at the Senior Center. He will celebrate his 100th birthday this month!

12. Town Clerk Vault - Kerri stated that she, Jim, Kathy Deree, and Lee Hultin met with Tom Doyle from the State Archives to inspect the vault and discuss approaches to reorganizing the records. Tom was very helpful and will have a report ready for review by the end of June. Once we review the report, we can prepare a plan to inspect the records, determine what needs to be kept, and refile in archival boxes and folders. Cathy noted that the Clerk has many responsibilities and will need help to do this work. Mark stated that there should be one person in overall charge of this project. Jim felt that the meeting was a good start and once the report is received we can meet with the Town Clerk and determine how to proceed.

13. Other Business - Jim stated that the Massachusetts History conference would be held on June 5 at Devens. He is registered and said that if others wanted to go, the commission would pay the registration fee.

Cathy attended the rededication of Newell Park on the weekend. She stated that it was well organized and well attended. Jim stated that it was too bad that the commission wasn't invited.

Jim stated that the groundbreaking for Beals Park went well. There are storyboards being prepared for the park and they will be submitted to the commission for their review.

Mark noted that he will be speaking on June 12 at the Massachusetts Historical Society on Congressman Studds. The lecture is at 6 PM.

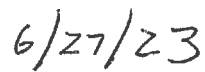
14. Next Meeting - The next meeting will be on June 27 at the Mayor's Office. The presentation of the Chester Kevitt award will be at 6:30 PM.

15. Adjournment - Cathy made a motion to adjourn at 8:05 PM, seconded by Kerri. So voted unanimously.



James Clarke

Chair



Date