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WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

7:00 P.M.

**Council Chambers, Town Hall
75 Middle St, Weymouth, MA**

In attendance: James Clarke, Chair
Mike Murphy
Mark Schneider
Kerri Donnelly
Dennis Sullivan
Maura Ziegler, Recording Secretary

Call to Order

7:01 PM

Minutes

August 2021

No additions or corrections were suggested.

A motion to approve the August minutes was made by Dennis Sullivan, seconded by Kerri Donnelly. So voted unanimously.

May 11, 2021 Minutes

No additions or corrections were suggested.

A motion to approve the May minutes was made by Dennis Sullivan and seconded by Mike Murphy. So voted unanimously.

Wessagusset storyboard panel event recap

Mark Schneider reviewed the event. There were representatives of the Massachuset tribe present and speaking, the Mayor, Town Council members, and about thirty constituents in attendance, including some of Mike's students and the press. The event was well received.

Demo Delay - review of structures to be added

The comparison of National Register Contributing Structures and Districts and the Demo Delay has been completed by Dennis.

The tally of the structures on the Demo Delay:

Central Square 3
Meeting House 12
Sea Street 83
Front Street 115-120

Jim stated that we need to have a hearing, notify the public and owners to make them aware of that their properties are to be included on the Demo Delay List.

Adding any additional locations, we will have to make some methodology to establish some rational as to why the property was added, other than those already on the current list. Also, establishing a review period, ten to fifteen years. Should we review this list annually in January?

A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Kerri to approve adding structures from the Central Square and Meetinghouse District to the Demolition Delay List. So voted unanimously.

A question was asked who has the ultimate authority of this list, which was answered the Historical Commission does.

The members felt that the list should be updated annually.

Town Clerk record review update

Kerri Donnelly has prepared a report on the status of the records and suggestions for next steps. The Town Clerk staff has been working to clean and organize materials in the lower vault. Kerri suggested seeking assistance regarding the scanning the documents, possibly with the Boston Public Library. There is a possibility that they might be able to get funding assistance.

Currently, funding would go through the Clerk's office. Mike asked to get a photo of the Musket that is stored to get a make and model number.

There is many things like sporting equipment, dog licenses from the 1990's, etc. that might not be required to retain and could be removed to free up space.

Weymouth History Lecture Series – report

Mark reported that the lectures kick off Thursday night at 7PM. The books should arrive, after, the event. WATD is doing an interview on Monday to promote the event.

November 9th will be the third. And we will begin working on the Spring series.

CPC report

A meeting was held to discuss an issue of the arches over the windows at the First Church which were originally part of the 1830's church and are not going to go back. It will be incompatible with the current architectural style. Jim stated that he had been

reviewing some church records to see if any reference was made about the windows but could find none.

Development Update

The old shoe factory on Wharf Street, the Francer building, is being converted to residential housing.

Jim asked about getting a tour arranged for the commission members.

Heritage Park - review of Weymouth timeline

The Mayor would like to create a timeline for Weymouth events. An email was sent to the Commission to begin working on this and to generate topics over the four-hundred years. Jim stated that this should include topics and individuals, as well as government, schools, businesses, Tufts Library, South Shore Hospital, fire, police, Historical Commission, power station, etc.

Jim said it is unclear as to what the layout will be, it might be a small plaque embedded in the walkway, they have not gotten back to me. If it were a storyboard, it would be consistent with the other locations. We could organize them by people, industry, government with more information in less space. We could do boards by chronological order, a walk through the history of Weymouth and it would match the other locations. This project's timeline would hopefully be done next year.

Mark spoke about the structure of this decision-making process, should it be the historical commission, the mayor, the parks department. He thinks that there should be a planning committee for Heritage Park.

There is a brick structure in this park that Kerri's grandfather helped build. It was stated that it is the King Philips War plaque. This plaque might be moved and incorporated with the timeline. Members were concerned about moving the plaque and asked for more information.

The site has been cleaned up and is of historical significance as it is the site of the first town hall and high school, as well as the King Philip monument.

Members felt that the timeline would work better at King Oak Hill Park, rather than at the busy intersection where Heritage Park is located.

A vote was taken to have Jim draft a letter proposing our suggestions and requesting a committee for this project. So voted unanimously.

Town Cemetery status report

Jim and Debbie Sullivan toured the cemeteries with Bob Feldmann from the DPW. Bob prepared a report that showed what work was required on the grounds, but not the stones. A CPC grant might be needed to repair the stones.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mike reported on progress with the Elmer Donnelly stone by having a conversation with John MacLeod, and Plymouth Quarries.

Jim reported that Bicknell house on Green Street, there is a for sale sign. A relative from England has concerns that this house needs to be preserved. A letter was sent regarding the preservation restrictions from the Commonwealth from the Planning Director.

There is a Thursday 6:30PM meeting at Beal's Park and Iron Hills Park, next Thursday at 6:30.

Weston Graphics has sent a final cost and Jim has authorized them to proceed with the printing of the Susan Torrey Merritt painting. A Cultural Council application was filed to help pay for the expense.

The gun at the corner of Middle and Commercial Streets it is a tank gun not an aircraft gun. A group wants to place a sign explaining what it is and why it is there. A motion was approved that the Historical Commission needs to approve the signage location and text before it gets created.

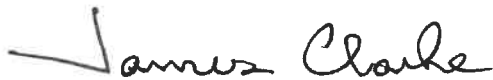
Next Meeting

December 14, 2021

Adjournment

7:52 PM

Mark Schneider made a motion to adjourn and Mike Murphy seconded it. All were in favor of adjournment.



James Clarke, Chair

Weymouth Historical Commission

5/31/22

Date