

2022 JUL -7 PM 2: 37

TOWN OF WEYMOUTH, MA.  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 17, 2022  
TUFTS LIBRARY - 7:00 PM

Present: James Clarke, Mike Murphy, Mark Schneider, Kerri Donnelly

1. Historic Sign Applications - A motion was made by Mike, seconded by Kerri, to take the sign applications first on the agenda. So voted unanimously. Jennifer and David Mirabelli were present to explain thier application for the historic sign. They stated that they lived in the house for 13 years and it was the home of Susan Torrey Merritt, who painted "The Abolitionist Picnic at Weymouth Landing". The house is a Greek Revival style. They mentioned finding portions of a Civil War uniform in the attic. A motion was made by Mike, seconded by Kerri, to approve the sign application for 774 Front Street. So voted unanimously.

The second application was for 12 Washburn St, a French Second Empire structure in Jackson Square. The dwelling was part of a group of similar homes built for iron workers. A motion was made Mike, seconded by Mark, to approve the sign application. So Voted unanimously.

The third application was for 34 Summer Street, a Greek Revial style house that is part of the Front Street National Register District. A motion was made by Mike, seconded by Kerri, to approve the sign application. So voted unanimously.

2. Minutes - A motion was made by Mike, seconded by Kerri, to approve the minutes of April 19, 2022. So voted unanimously.

A motion was made by Mike, seconded by Mark, to approve the minutes of Octoober 19, 2021. So voted unanimously.

3. Emery Estate - Jim introduced Leilani Dalpe, town Program Manager, who has been working on a programing plan and building improvement plan for the Emery Estate. She desribed a survey that was done to guage interest in uses for the building. She stated that

most responders wanted to save the building. She has visited the Holbrook House and spoken to the Historical Society. They no longer have space at the new library and need space to display their artifacts. The society is exploring ways to use the Emery Estate as a display area. Leilani noted that the house is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. She has explored the use of the house for ghost tours. This was done at the Oliver Estate in Easton and there have been three successful tours at the Emery Estate. Leilani noted that the building is structurally sound but needs extensive exterior work. She passed out copies of a funding and programming plan and a schedule for improvements. Mark was pleased that repairs were being proposed and there were possible new uses for the building. Leilani discussed applying for CPA funds and the need to create a historic preservation restriction on the property.

Mike noted that the Historical Society will be the tenant in the building and would have control of the space. They could also apply for grant funds.

Mark requested that Leilani keep the commission informed on progress. Mike requested that the commission get a walkthrough of the building.

Kerri stated that she was relieved to see that there was work going on about the repair and reuse the building.

Jim opened up questions from the audience. Valerie Russo raised a question on the insurance. Kathy Swain was excited that activity was underway. She was concerned that the construction repairs should be done before the WHS moves into the building. Tom Eldridge stated that he works on historic homes and thought that this progress was great. He has worked with the North Bennett Street School and suggested Leilani contact them as a resource. Jim thanked Leilani for the thorough presentation and stated that the commission wants to stay involved in the preservation of the Emery Estate.

4. Lecture Series - Mark stated that the first spring lecture at the First Church was well presented and had a great turnout. The next lecture is this Thursday. The fall lectures are set and will start in October.
5. Newsletter - Kerri reported that the newsletter has been published and there have been 54 subscribers. We are trying to link it to other sites, such as Lisa Belmarsh's newsletter. Jim mentioned that the announcement and link has not been put on the town web page yet. He had hoped that it would have been done during the first week of May. Kerri noted that the next issue will be published in July.
6. North Weymouth Trolley Tour - Jim reported that speakers are set for the tour and the

schedule is under review. The tour will be on the afternoon of July 9. This is part of North Weymouth Day and the Weymouth 400 celebration.

7. Cemetery Update - Jim passed out a photo of the new chain fixed between the granite posts at the Reed Cemetery. He noted that work is progressing as the DPW can fit it in between regular projects.
8. Elmer Donnelly Dedication - Mike stated that the dedication is scheduled for Saturday, May 28, at 10:00 AM at the Emery Estate. Many family members from across the country will be attending. A good crowd is expected.
9. Other Business - Jim noted that Hingham will be holding an event for the Grape Island alarm this Sunday, May 22. Weymouth has not been contacted regarding this event.  
Mark stated that he was filmed for the documentary that Weymouth 400 has commissioned. Jim stated that Cathy Torrey was also filmed at the Abigail Adams Birthplace.
10. Jim stated that the next meeting is scheduled for June 14 at 6:30 PM in the Mayor's Office. The time and location is set because the Mayor will be presenting the Chet Kevitt Award.
11. Adjournment - A motion was made to adjourn by Mark, seconded by Mike, at 8:25PM. So voted unanimously.



James Clarke, Chair  
Weymouth Historical Commission

6/28/22

Date