

WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL COMMISSION
June 11th, 2012 Meeting
Francis Kelly Room/Weymouth Town Hall

PRESENT: Chairman Ed Walker, Mary Dorey, Jody Purdy-Quinlan, Don Mathewson, Cathy Torrey and Rodney Lundin

ABSENT: Ted Clarke

ALSO PRESENT: Jody Lehrer/Community Development Coordinator, Office of Planning and Community Development

Call to Order 7:30 p.m.

Chairman Walker called the June 11th, 2012 meeting of the Weymouth Historical Commission to order at 7:30 PM.

Approval of May 14th, 2012 Minutes

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan moved to approve the minutes of the May 14th, 2012 meeting.

Ms. Dorey seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

Reports - Town Liaison

Ms. Lehrer reported on the King Phillip War Memorial Wall, presenting a sketch that proposed a 5 ft. wheelchair accessible entrance. There were two proposals for the entrance: (1) was constructed of concrete with brick on either side - or (2) brick with landscaping on either side.

Ms. Lehrer informed members that Jim Clarke (Director of Planning and Community Development) was in favor of the brick accompanied by the landscaping - but she noted before they proceed with this part of the project they first need to complete the repair work.

Chairman Walker commented that it sits on bedrock and Mr. Clarke doesn't want to move it.

Ms. Dorey asked who would be responsible for the upkeep of the landscaping.

Ms. Lehrer responded that they hope to get some business/person/organization to 'adopt' it.

RECEIVED

Mr. Lundin asked about the 'elevation', commenting that it was not noted on the plan.

Ms. Lehrer told him that the plants would be 16" high.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan wanted to point out that when creating handicap access, they need to meet certain stringent ADA (American Disabilities Act) regulations.

In regard to questions about the fence, Ms. Lehrer did not have any update.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan moved to approve the design of the brick walkway accompanied by landscaping for the Memorial Wall entrance.

Ms. Dorey seconded.

Discussion: Mr. Lundin said he was not too keen on it, questioning the ability for wheelchair access with this design. He commented that he was hesitant to vote without knowing the elevation.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan said that because Jim Clarke was administering the plan, she felt based on his knowledge/expertise they should trust his judgment.

Ms. Lehrer believed they would be several feet away due to the elevation.

Mr. Lundin said he would like to take a look at it.

Ms. Lehrer suggested he speak to Mr. Clarke directly about his concerns.

Mr. Lundin then asked if the Building Department was involved and Ms. Lehrer told him that Planning and the Town Engineer were.

Mr. Lundin said at this point he would go along with the motion, but with reservations.

It was explained to Mr. Lundin that if he had reservations he could abstain from participating in the vote, and this is what he chose to do.

The Chairman called for the vote.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED (Ron Lundin abstained)

In referring to the project, Ms. Purdy-Quinlan said that the bottom line was that the ball was dropped, so now their options were limited.

Chairman Walker commented that he believed it was state property.

Mr. Lundin asked who was paying for it and Ms. Lehrer replied 'the state'.

Mr. Lundin commented that it would only take a small amount to take care of it, and Ms. Lehrer encouraged him to contact Mr. Clarke for the details.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan interjected that they needed to remember they were dealing with the state Department of Transportation, adding this is a lesson for us in the future that we need to be on top of things.

Fogg Library Update

Ms. Lehrer reported that the plans and cost review were scheduled for tomorrow (6/12) with the Director and the contracted company.

Legion Wall Update

Ms. Lehrer informed members that the iron fencing was expected to be completed by July 1st.

Pratt Memorial Zoning Committee

Ms. Lehrer reported that the units proposed for the Pratt have been reduced from thirty-eight (38) to twenty-one (21).

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan pointed out that the developer has does not plan on changing the façade of the building. She was expecting the proposed design would also match in the rear (the part that faces Middle Street). She said that the developer wants to retain as much of the original building as he can - and that includes the interior. She suggested that they might possibly use some Weymouth granite.

It was noted that Chief Justice Taft spoke there.

Emery Estate Open House June 16th

Ms. Torrey, who serves on the Emery Estate Advisory Committee, reported that the Open House will take place on Saturday, June 16th from 9AM to 12 Noon.

Additionally there will be a public forum held on June 21st at the Abigail Adams Middle School at 7:00 PM, at which time they will be begin reviewing the draft report (the completed report expected to be out in July). The agenda of the forum will also allow for the resident's feedback/ideas. Using the building for community events is being proposed as well as social events; i. e, weddings, etc. At this point there is a (outside) wedding ceremony scheduled for September.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan asked if this would require a permit.

Ms. Lehrer said she would check that out with Jim Clarke.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan then asked if there was a fee involved - this appeared to be unclear.

It was noted that the person who would be using the Emery Estate in September is Theresa Clark of the East Weymouth Neighborhood Assn.

Ms. Torrey wanted to point out that the Committee has no real authority. She also emphasized that the building needs to be self-sustaining.

It was noted that the Advisory's Committee's charge is to take its final recommendations for its use to the Town Council and Mayor Kay.

Update re. House Signs and Chester Kevitt Award Presentations

The ceremony for both presentations took place in the Mayor's office just prior to tonight's meeting. Members felt it turned out excellent.

Discussion returned to the Emery Estate - where it was commented that the view from the Estate is very impressive, although the inside of the estate has not had any improvements and consists of just plaster walls - with very simple decor.

When asked when it was built, Chairman Walker thought it was in 1906, adding that it was built by Dunbar.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan added that the same one built 43 Bicknell Road (re. Civil War).

It was noted that through the years it had additions put on.

The Chairman commented that it was very small.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan told members that she began visiting Emery when she was quite young, adding that Colonial Magazine wanted to do a spread on it, but the Emery's were not in favor of it.

Ms. Torrey said that its capacity is 90 people, commenting that it was comparable to Endicott Estate in Dedham - but just not as grand.

Update on Rehab of Abigail Adams House

Ms. Torrey was happy to report that they have obtained another grant for the siding of the house in the amount of \$58,000 from the CPC (Community Preservation Committee).

Chairman Walker asked if they received their exemption from ADA and Ms. Torrey responded that they are still waiting to hear.

Old Business

Wessagusset Wetlands and Woodlands

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan informed the Commission that the lighting is there, but it hasn't been installed yet.

Ms. Torrey said that they were waiting for the fixture.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan discussed the signage, and she felt that possibly Mike McCarthy, who creates the signage for the historical homes, would be a good candidate for this work. She said the verbiage for the sign would be simple, adding she would also like to see the Town Seal included. She noted that it was viewed as a conservation site - and it was initially preserved by vote of the 1999 Town Meeting by the Weymouth Historical Commission and the Weymouth Conservation Commission.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan then asked Ms. Lehrer to bring the subject up with Jim Clarke, because she said the Wessagusset Wetlands and Woodlands was not listed anywhere officially as a Park - but said it should be. She pointed out that it has been 13 years since it was approved. She suggested that they might possibly use CPC money for the expense of the sign - but Ms. Lehrer didn't think it would qualify.

New Business

Members chose to vote on the new officers for the Commission in the Fall.

Chairman Walker suggested, for the future, they place historical sign applications in the town libraries and Ms. Lehrer agreed to do so.

Trinity Episcopal Church - Broad Street

Ms. Torrey reported that the Trinity Episcopal Church is closing after 155 years. They would like to sell it to another church or a non-profit agency.

When asked about what happens to their records, Ms. Torrey said that there is a Diocesan Historian who takes these records and stores them.

Ms. Torrey told Chairman Walker that she would make arrangements for him to visit the church so that he could view any historical items that might be housed there; i. e., pictures. She noted that June 17th would be their final service.

Chairman Walker stated that his uncle was the treasurer there for many years.

Next Meeting

Members discussed the next meeting date and at this point it was agreed that they would return in the Fall to Tuesday evening meetings beginning at 7:00 PM, unless something changes.

Adjournment

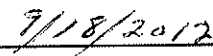
Ms. Purdy-Quinlan moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM and to meet again after the on Tuesday, September 11th, 2012.

Ms. Dorey seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED



Ed Walker, Chairman, WHC



Date

Respectfully submitted,
Susan DeChristoforo
Recording Secretary