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WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

April 23, 2012 Meeting

Francis Kelly Room/Weymouth Town Hall

2012 JUL 19 A 9:30

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF WEYMOUTH, MASS.

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

ABSENT: Ted Clarke

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

Call to Order 7 p.m.

Chairman Walker called to order the April 23rd, 2012 special meeting of the Weymouth Historical Commission at 7:00 PM.

Approval of March 12, 2012 Minutes

Mr. Mathewson moved to approve the minutes of the March 12th, 2012 meeting.

Ms. Dorey seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

Acceptance of April 9th, 2012 Work Session

The minutes of the April 9th, 2012 work session were accepted and placed on file.

(Ms. Purdy-Quinlan arrived at 7:07 PM).

Reports - Town Liaison

Chester Kevitt Award

Members discussed recipients for the 2012 Chester Kevitt Award.

Nominees were Phil Smith (past member), Bill (Wilfred) Mathewson, (Fire) Lt. Mike Crowley.

Members discussed the possibility of awarding more than one this year.

One of the reasons for doing this was because the senior age of the recipient. It was noted that this was done in the past for this reason; i. e., one recipient received the award in a year when there were two because of the elder age of the person - who was one of the original members of the Abigail Adams Society.

Re. Nominees - Ms. Purdy-Quinlan said she was in favor of Bill Mathewson for 2012.

Mr. Lundin commented that he didn't know him.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan explained that Bill had served on the Commission many years ago and had also been involved in preserving Weymouth's history through the years in many ways.

Chairman Walker was in support of past Historical Commission member Phil Smith, noting that he also a member of the Weymouth Historical Society - serving as it's President at one point, and had been very involved in the recent Civil War program.

The other nominee was Lt. Mike Crowley - It was noted that he had written many articles on Weymouth's history for the Weymouth News through the years.

Discussion continued with Ms. Dorey pointing out that Bill Mathewson was the oldest of the nominees and she felt his family would be pleased to know that his efforts over the years were acknowledged in some way.

(Cathy Torrey arrived at 7:12PM).

Chairman Walker agreed that both Phil Smith and Lt. Crowley were younger.

These gentlemen would have the opportunity to be nominated again in the future.

Mr. Mathewson added that his brother Bill had also done a lot of work in regard to the creation/listing of homes on Weymouth's Demo Delay list.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan moved they stay with one name for the Chester Kevitt Award for 2012 and she nominated Bill (Wilfred) Mathewson as this year's recipient.

Ms. Dorey seconded.

Discussion:

Mr. Lundin said he was also in favor of one recipient and supported Bill Mathewson as the nominee.

It was felt that if they went with more than one recipient it would diminish the prestige of the award, and by staying with just one would help to keep the award unique.

The Chairman took Ms. Purdy-Quinlan's motion.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

It was clarified that Mr. Mathewson's name would go on two plaques - one that would go to the recipient himself, Wilfred B. Mathewson, and the other would be the master plaque, where his name would be added to the list of recipients.

Ms. Lehrer said she would place the order right away with Cushman's.

It was agreed that the Commission would combine the presentation of the Chester Kevitt plaque with the presentation of the (13) historical house signs.

Mr. Mathewson asked where the historical house signs were placed and Ms. Lehrer replied that they were usually mounted on the house.

It was also agreed that the ceremonies would take place on Monday, June 11th at 6:30 PM in Mayor Kay's office, and would be accompanied by refreshments. Further at the conclusion of this event, the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Commission would follow and begin at 7:30 PM.

Ms. Lehrer will be sending out letters to all the house plaque owners inviting them to the June 11th presentation ceremonies. Mr. Whittaker/Joseph Reed house would be one of the invitees (initially he told Ms. Lehrer that he would just come by and pick it up). Additionally she would send a letter to Bill Mathewson informing him that he has been voted as the 2012 recipient of the Chester Kevitt award, along with an invitation to the June 11th ceremonies.

Discussion of House Plaque Criteria

The criteria to be considered for a historical house plaque was reviewed:

- 1) historical significance
- 2) architectural significance
- 3) the house had to be a minimum of 100 years old.

Ms. Lehrer told members that she had spoken to Phil Bergen of the Massachusetts Historical Commission and he told her that a historical house could be considered/approved with a minimum of 50 years of age. She commented that sounded reasonable, but that 75 years (minimum) could be viewed as a compromise.

Mr. Lundin was opposed to reducing the years, commenting that he couldn't see a house built in the 60's as qualifying as being historical. He wanted to leave it at 100 years, adding that if they were going to make change he would rather go the other way - make the minimum 150 years.

Chairman Walker interjected 'when I think of how many we have already lost'.

Mr. Lundin referred back to the architecture of a house built in the 60's; i. e., split-levels and garrisons.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan recommended for now they could stay with what they have and members agreed.

Mr. Lundin commented 'when you make it less, you diminish the intent'. He said he like to would go with Mass. Historical Commission's criteria of 150 years.

New Business

Ms. Lehrer told members that Jim Clarke would like to see the Commission come up with a 'working plan' for next year that would include specific issues they might like to target.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan referred to working on the 'Demo Delay' list and members agreed.

Mr. Lundin suggested coming up with a 'historical program' similar to this past years Civil War Program/lectures, etc.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan reminded members about giving thought to acknowledging Weymouth's upcoming 390th anniversary in some way and referred to the reenactment they spoke about some time ago.

Mr. Lundin said that the re-enactment people he works with are presently working with the Town of Rockland re. their 350th anniversary.

Updates

Ms. Lehrer reported the following:

Fogg Library - she informed members that they had received (8) proposals re. architectural changes. The proposals will be open on Wednesday, April 25th at 11 AM - and three interviews are scheduled.

Legion Field - the repair work on the concrete/foundation wall at Legion Field is progressing.

King Phillip War Memorial - The Mass. DOT (Department of Transportation) responded and there will be a viewing area, with Chairman Walker commenting 'they might want to include a bench'.

Wessagusset Memorial Garden - The garden will have lighting by Jim Cook.

Chairman Walker referred to the **canoe launch** by Weymouth Landing that is going in - and based on the past discussion he felt that the Commission would be looking forward to a busy year.

Old Business

Ms. Torrey informed the members that the CPC approved a grant for the Abigail Adams house in the amount of \$58,000 for the purpose of finishing the project. She added that in reviewing past records they found that the siding on the house should be 'natural'. At this point they were still waiting for the services of a union electrician (volunteer), with his work to be done free of charge.

Ms. Lehrer noted that a HUD rep, Lois Gates, manages the grant program and she will be coming in to review the funding decisions. She will be considering Abigail Adams house for handicapped access - re. future Community Development Block Grant monies.

Ms. Lehrer told members that the Clapp Memorial Building is being redeveloped and will house residential units.

2012/2013 Weymouth Historical Commission Work Plan

Ms. Lehrer and members reviewed their upcoming work plan:

- 1 Update Demo Delay list
- 2 Fogg Library (ongoing)
- 3 Emery Estate
- 4 Clapp Memorial (focus on exterior)

Ms. Torrey commented that she felt the Civil War Program was very successful and suggested the Commission might want to give some thought to doing something similar.

Chairman Walker suggested they consider "Weymouth's history", noting that the Town goes back to just after the arrival of the pilgrims.

New Business - Cont'd

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan said that she would be meeting with Mayor Kay, adding that she would like some type of acknowledgement of the Town's 390th anniversary.

Ms. Torrey reminded her that at one point she had talked about combining it with the 'pumpkin event' in the Fall and Ms. Purdy-Quinlan agreed.

It was suggested that it could be incorporated between September and June. Historical subjects suggested included:

- 5 Blackstone
- 6 Thomas Weston colony
- 7 The killings
- 8 Robert Gorges Company settled in September 1623 - all settled in Boston (Charlestown, Somerville, E. Boston/Maverick Square, David Thompson/Thompson's Island)

Ms. Dorey suggested possibly doing something with the website.

Chairman Walker said that could be another focus for them.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan referred to 1622/1623 settlement of Wessagusset, adding initially England sent one boat, then two - then more for a total of (80). She then referred to 'patterns' - the New England Charter, adding that King James allowed people to settle New England under the pattern/charter. Then King Charles became the ruler and took over. When the Puritans arrived they threw them out, because of King Charles overruling them. She went on to say that in 1635 people from Weymouth, England came and they were incorporated - on the same day as the Town of Hingham!

Adjournment

Ms. Torrey moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM.

Mr. Lundin seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED


Ed Walker, Chairman, WHC

5/15/2012
Date

Respectfully submitted,
Susan DeChristoforo
Recording Secretary