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TOWN OF WEYMOUTH, MA.
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 29, 2022
TOWN HALL - 7:00 PM

Present: Jim Clarke, Mike Murphy, Dennis Sullivan, Mark Schneider, Kerri Donnelly, Cathy Torrey, (Jenn Weiss-Donavan attended by phone, not voting)

Staff: Eric Schneider

1. Minutes - The meeting was called to order by Jim at 7PM. A motion was made by Mike, seconded by Dennis, to approve the October 18, 2022 minutes as submitted. So voted unanimously.

2. Historic House Signs. Eric reported that the signmaker from Maine had passed and there was a backlog of several signs to be completed. He said there was a new person taking the work in Maine but the price had doubled to \$150. Staff is exploring local options. Mike suggested that staff check with Brian Dwayne, the school painter. He is a good carpenter and does signs for the schools. Cathy agreed that Brian does a good job. Jim asked Eric to cancel the existing orders with the Maine signmaker and check with Brian.

3. Lecture Series - Mark noted that three of the five scheduled events were held in the fall. Ken Turino from Historic New England spoke on November 17 about the "Female Abolitionists and the Evolution of Christmas" to over seventy attendees. Cathy noted that the two postponed speakers wanted to speak in March, 2023 for Women's Month. It is also the 400th anniversary of the First Church of Weymouth and they might be planning speaking events.

4. Newsletter - Kerri reported that the November issues is online and we have 135 subscribers. Over 450 people have seen the newsletter. Kerri noted that the next issue is in January and welcomed articles from all members. She suggested that we highlight the sign program and solicit stories on the history of a building that has a sign. This will be revisited when the sign program is back up and running.

5. Jackson Square - Jim passed our maps of a suggested National Register District for Jackson Square that had been prepared by the MBTA for the Greenbush approval process. He noted that the cost of the research and report could cost around \$20,000, but that's just a guess. He said he would work with Eric to prepare a scope of work. Jim requested a motion to prepare an application to the Community Preservation Committee to fund the nomination. Cathy made a motion, seconded by Mike, to prepare a draft CPC application for the commission to review at the next meeting. So voted unanimously.

6. Weymouth 400 - Jim noted that the gala film release event had been postponed until December 30, 2022.

7. Development update - Eric reviewed elevation plans for 88 Pleasant Street that showed where different stone and wood materials would be placed. Members reviewed the plans and the sample board. Mike didn't like the design and wished the old bank had been preserved. Jim stated that the owner had gone through the demolition review process and we had asked for use of local materials and saving the doorway arch, which they did.

Cathy asked about the status of the pilot house on Commercial Street. Eric stated that the developer is getting his other permits and should restart work in the spring.

Jim asked Eric to include the commission on the referral forms for BZA and Planning Board applications.

8. Community Preservation Committee - Cathy reported that the committee held their annual public meeting on November 3 and Stuart Saginor from the Community Preservation Trust spoke about the success of the program in the state and its current status. The meeting also gave an overview of projects completed and underway in Weymouth.

9. Cemetery Commission - Mike reported that the commission finally met on November 9 and reviewed the work done by the DPW over the past two years. The group also discussed the need to preserve the gravestones and markers in the town cemeteries. There was some discussion of the condition of the private Highland Cemetery and how repairs could be encouraged. Jim hoped that the commission would seek funds to restore and repair broken gravestones.

10. WHC Assistance Projects - Jim noted that there had been little feedback from the town administration regarding requests we had made on Heritage Park and the Emery Estate. Cathy noted that the Abigail Adams Historical Society was requested to prepare language for the Abigail Adams Statue with very short notice. Jim stated that he would reach out to the Mayor's Office in January regarding these issues.

11. History of Town Government - Jim stated that he is preparing a storyboard on town government to be installed at the Youngclaus Memorial Green. The material would be comprehensive but focus on the Charter Commission and the change to the Mayor - Town Council government. The Mayor has requested some edits and when a final draft is ready it will be submitted to the commission for a final review.

12. Other Business - Cathy passed out copies of the Weymouth Library Strategic Plan and noted that the Friends of Weymouth Libraries were selling a Weymouth Cookbook, tied in with Weymouth 400.

Jim reported that the assessment of the Town Clerk vault is getting back on schedule after the election and David Bristol has donated a Wemouth map by Walling from 1851 to the town. The Town Clerk is reviewing where it might be placed and how it can be repaired.

Jim reported the the "Abolitionist's Picnic" painting for the Chapman School is being printed and framed.

Cathy suggested the need for Meetinghouse District banners since many other areas have banners and the church will be celebrating their 400th next year.

13. Next Meeting - Jim stated that no meeting will be held in December and the next meeting will be January 10. Reorganization will be on the agenda.

14. A motion to adjourn at 8PM was made by Mark, seconded by Dennis. So Voted unanimously.



James Clarke
Chair, WHC

1/10/23

Date