

2022 SEP 21 AM 11:35

TOWN OF WEYMOUTH, MA.
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 14, 2022
TUFTS LIBRARY - 7:00 PM

Present: Jim Clarke, Jenn Donovan, Kerri Donnelly, Dennis Sullivan, Cathy Torrey, Mark Schneider

1. Chet Kevitt Award 2022 - Presentation - Jim called the meeting of the commission to order at 6:30 PM. He stated that the award was named for the first chair of the commission and recognizes a person or group who has worked to preserve and/or promote the history of Weymouth. Jim asked Mark Schneider, author of "Colonial Weymouth", to present the award. Mark noted that David Finney is an architect and a friend who offered to help create land ownership maps of the early Weymouth settlers. David used the 1643 Rev. Newman written land records and converted them to spatial maps. The work was complicated, like putting together a jig-saw puzzle that had some missing pieces. There were also references to place names that are no longer used in town. The resulting maps allowed Mark to suggest that the early land distribution patterns were more egalitarian than other settlements in Massachusetts. The new maps will be an important resource for future scholars of Weymouth and of early European settlements in America. Mark also thanked Annemarie Reardon, who shot the photographs that illustrate various parts of the book. Mark recognized the Weymouth Public Libraries, publisher of the book. This was the first book published by the library. David accepted the award from Jim and thanked all for the recognition especially Mark for encouraging him to decipher the land records and create the maps.
2. Minutes - A motion was made by Cathy, seconded by Mark, to approve the May 17, 2022 minutes. So voted unanimously.

3. Lecture Series update - Mark stated that Mike Murphy's Civil War lecture was well received. Due to illness, Michelle Marchetti Coughlin's lecture was postponed until the fall. Mark reviewed the other scheduled lectures for the Fall, 2022.
4. Newsletter - Kerri noted that there were 118 signups for the first newsletter. Articles for the July newsletter are being prepared. Members were encouraged to promote the newsletter.
5. Development Update - Jim stated that several members toured the Francer Building last night. The developer, Mike Kiley, walked us through the building and described how the former shoe factory was being converted to residential apartments. He noted the rigorous historical review on the Federal level and where certain parts of the old building were being incorporated into the renovation. The new residents can take advantage of a short walk to the East Weymouth commuter rail station.
6. North Weymouth Trolley Tours - Jim stated that there will be three trolleys running during July 9. All three will have speakers on board and two will have scheduled stops with speakers at those sites. Kerri and Mike will be trolley tour guides and Jim and Cathy will be at site stops.
7. CPC Report - Cathy noted that funding had been approved for the demolition of the smokestack at Osprey Overlook Park.
8. Elmer Donnelly Dedication Ceremony - Jim noted that the event was well run and well attended on May 28. Mike Murphy was the host and speakers included Donnelly relatives, US Merchant Marine, and the Weymouth Veterans Agent, among others. A stone and a storyboard were unveiled at the top of King Oak Hill Park.
9. Emery Estate - Jim noted that at the last meeting we had a full presentation from Leilani Dalpe from the Mayor's Office. She discussed current and future uses for the building and efforts to fund repairs to the structure. Cathy explained the work of the committee formed by Mayor Hedlund several years ago. This committee has not met in some time. There have been discussions with the Weymouth Historical Society to use the building as a museum and there have been several ghost tour events staged at the house. Members had some questions about these uses and long term viability for the building. Members wondered who had direct control over the building and grounds. It was agreed that it was best for Jim and Cathy to meet again with Leilani to raise our questions and gather further information.
10. Other Business - A grant was in the works from the State Archives to assist in a review of the Town Clerk's Vault. Jim and Kerri were helping on this. This will help to organize, preserve, and digitize the records.

We are waiting to hear from the School Department regarding the donation of the Susan Torrey Merritt painting for the Chapman School. They want to review potential placement sites for the painting in August.

11. Next Meeting - September 13, 2022.
12. Adjournment - A motion was made by Mark, seconded by Cathy, to adjourn at 7:35. So voted unanimously.



James Clarke, Chair
Weymouth Historical Commission

9/20/22

Date