

MINUTES OF THE
EMERY ESTATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 1, 2015

PRESENT: Mary Jordan-Roy, Cathy Torrey, Laura LeBarron, Janelle Quinn and Bill McCarthy

ABSENT: Pat O'Leary (Chairwoman), Ron Boretti, Heidi Lewis-Smith and Dan Condon

OTHERS: Jim Clarke, Director of Planning and Community Development
Lee Hultin, Recording Secretary

Vice Chairwoman Mary Jordan-Roy called the Emery Estate Advisory Committee meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the McCulloch Building, 182 Green Street, Weymouth.

Staff update on Committee's inquiries:

Jim Clarke said the first question had to do with serving alcohol. The Town Solicitor is not aware of any blanket prohibition against serving alcohol on town property. If there were a lease or license agreement with the town, the proposer would have to get a one day liquor license and list the town as a coinsured for liability.

Mary asked if this is something that would need to go before the Town Council, and Mr. Richards said no, a one day liquor license would go before the Licensing Board.

Cathy Torrey said there is no alcohol allowed at the schools.

Jim Clarke said if we are going to allow alcohol consumption at Emery, we should come up with some sort of guidelines for them to follow.

The second question was on the funding for improvements for the RFP. He stated unless we have dedicated money for an improvement then we cannot put it in the RFP but we could say it's the town's intention to submit an article or ask for bonding approval.

The RFP says we know there are capital improvements required before someone comes in and we said we would work with the operator and look for funding to make this happen.

Mary asked if there is a certificate of occupancy at Emery right now, and Jim Clarke said the town uses it for office space but he is not sure it can be used by a group for functions or gatherings.

Staff update on Administration Changes:

Jim Clarke stated that Nicholas Bulens sent out letters to the two applicants on November 17, 2015. There have been no follow ups with them or the Trustees. In one month there will be a new Mayor in place, and Jim and Nicholas have spoken with him briefly. He may have different ideas so we are on hold for now. Bob Hedlund hopes to meet with the committee after he takes office.

Sub-groups report out:

Laura LeBarron said that she thinks some of them should get together and go to the Christmas Winter Gala at the Daniel Webster Inn that Mayor Elect Hedlund sent out. Cathy Torrey stated that she is going with some of the Abigail Adams members and Laura is welcome to join, they will also be visiting other historical homes along the way. Cathy will send this information out to the committee.

Mary Jordan-Roy said she will bring up the Easter Egg Hunt idea to the next Community Events Committee.

Cathy Torrey said she started looking at the history of the Emery Estate. She spoke with Tim Orwig (he did some research for the Meeting House) and he is going to give her some advice on how to make it a historical house.

Bill McCarthy reported on the European Style Holiday Market. When he was in Europe he took pictures of the market. They have 10x10 lockable huts with power, a roof, etc. He believes they rent them but cannot find them in the U.S. to rent. He spoke with the Lower Pittsburg Chamber, and they run one of these markets. He is waiting to hear back from them with more information and will report back then. He is hoping Pittsburg has a resource on these huts or an idea on how they do it. He showed the committee the pictures from Europe.

Bill envisions lining them up on the circular driveway with light in the trees and outdoor tents, picnic tables to eat on, a fire pit, dancing, market vendors, crafters and food. This is only seasonal during the holiday season.

Janelle Quinn suggested using the Carriage House, too.

Mary Jordan-Roy said she would like to see Emery decorated with lots of lights and do a stroll in the back.

Janelle Quinn said the Women's Group in Hingham sells Christmas trees as a fundraiser and has civic groups and business donate the trees to help.

Other Business:

Mary Jordan-Roy asked why haven't we started a "Friends of Emery" yet? It was stated because that would need to be set up as a 501(c)(3) which is a separate non-profit.

Jim Clarke said it would have to be sanctioned somehow.

Cathy Torrey said there is a Friends of the Library. They are not associated with the town and they do not have to give any money to the town. They can decide how to disburse the money they raise on their own. The friends groups are the fundraising people and not a town committee.

Mary Jordan-Roy would like to know what the first steps would be do set this up.

Janelle Quinn said the town can still raise money but it would not be tax deductible. The money would then go into the general fund she believes, and we could then spend it.

Bill McCarthy said that now that this committee has actually completed its function on the purpose of Emery could the committee be morphed into another group to plan fundraising etc.

Jim Clarke said it is worth discussing as we move forward with the new administration. Since this committee is very interested in Emery still, if the committee goes away perhaps this committee could form a friends group.

It is time to think about the direction of this committee. It is a possibility it could be dissolved.

Mary Jordan-Roy asked if we can have a Friends Group when Emery was bought with CPC funds?

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bill McCarthy made a motion to approve the minutes of April 25, 2014 and was seconded by Janelle Quinn. Voted 5-0

The Minutes of November 4, 2015 are on hold as there is an amendment request.

ADJOURNMENT

Cathy Torrey made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 pm and was seconded by Laura LeBarron. Voted Unanimously

Respectfully submitted by:

Lee Hultin
Recording Secretary


Approved

3/24/16
Date