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WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

2011 MAR 10 A 12:41
Francis Kelly Room/Weymouth Town Hall

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK
WEYMOUTH, MASS

PRESENT: Acting Chairman Ed Walker, Phil Smith, Don Mathewson,
Cathy Torrey and Jody Purdy-Quinlan

ABSENT: Ted Clarke and Mary Dorey

ALSO PRESENT: Jim Clarke, Director/Planning and Community Development

Call to Order 7 p.m.

Chairman

Acting Chairman Walker called the February 8th, 2011 meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Minutes

Ms. Torrey moved to approve the minutes of the January 11th, 2011 meeting.
Mr. Smith seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

REPORTS

National Register Update

Mr. Clarke informed members that plans are to contact the Massachusetts Historical Commission to request resident's notification cards, that would be accompanied by a personalized cover letter explaining the designation to those property owners who lived within the newly approved historical districts; i. e., Meeting House Lane and Front Street.

Legion Field Wall Update

Mr. Clarke reported that they have an application before the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to fund Phase II of the Legion Field Wall project that will encompass the upgrading of the iron fence. He stated that presently there is a CPC meeting scheduled for next Thursday (2/17/11) and at that point they will explain the proposal and the request for funding.

Mr. Clarke further stated that they have received bids for Phase I, explaining they have decided to address each phase separately.

Mr. Smith asked about the status of the gates.

Mr. Clarke replied that they were in pretty good shape. He then spoke about a company located on Woodrock that did the gates - as well as a sample that included coating. He said they were very pleased with the sample and they plan on specifying that process be used for the final product.

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Mr. Walker asked if they would be sandblasting the gate.
Mr. Clarke replied 'yes, along with several coats of black paint'. He confirmed that the initial work to the gates has been completed and if they wanted to a sample - it could be found in the section located next to the sign.
(Ms. Purdy-Quinlan arrived)

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan told members that she had a picture of the fence taken in 1973 that could be helpful as a reference.

Mr. Clarke informed the Commission that tomorrow night would be the final meeting on the roadwork for Weymouth Landing and at that time they will be discussing the lighting - as well as the area around Weston Park. The roadwork is scheduled to begin in the Spring.

Mr. Smith asked if it would include the widening of the sidewalk.

Mr. Clarke responded that the sidewalks would be widened in some areas, but he explained the widening work would not be eliminating any public parking. He said that the proposed roadwork/sidewalks would include 'bump outs' in the Weymouth Landing area including the areas by the Olde Brick Grill, Weymouth Savings Bank, the post office (the area on the southbound side).

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan asked if there was a way they could request signage for that area stating "No Turn On Red" - with the exception of certain hours (for example from 2 AM to 3 PM).

Mr. Smith interjected that this traffic regulation was federally mandated.

Mr. Clarke told Ms. Purdy-Quinlan to send him an email noting her specific request and he, in turn, would forward it to the Town's traffic engineer for consideration. It was expected that the reason for the signage in this location was because of Union Towers (senior citizen housing).

Ms. Torrey informed members that the Town Council unanimously voted to fund \$90,000 for Abigail Adams house last night (2/7/11). She pointed out that the Local IBEW also volunteered to rewire the house and bring it up to code, adding that the Abigail Adams Society (of which she and Phil Smith were a member) were delighted with the action taken.

Mr. Walker asked if the house would be closed during the renovation work and Ms. Torrey replied 'probably'.

Fog Library Update
 Mr. Walker reported that today he and Jim Clarke met with Mayor Kay on the status of the interior of the Fog Library. During the meeting they showed the Mayor original pictures of the first floor. At this point he was hopeful that this historical aspect would help to support/maintain the library's historical integrity. He wanted to point out that the 'stacks' are still located in the original location.

Canoe Room Update
 Next Mr. Walker told the Commission that he recently visited the Canoe Room in the Tufts Library and found the humidity gauge up to 68% - with the unit gauge being shut off. He thought the timer was not working. He also noted that the compressor was cold. Again at this point he didn't think it was working.

Mr. Smith thought that was surprising in this cold weather. He asked Mr. Walker why the back-up system didn't kick in.

Mr. Walker replying that he didn't think it worked anymore. He went on to say that he reset the #10 switch in back. He discovered that it hadn't tripped - but now it is back up and operating. He could not figure out how to override the timer.

Mr. Clarke told Mr. Walker that he would have someone take a look at it.

Fog Library Update - Cont'd

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Clarke if there was anything further to report regarding the interior of the Fog Library.

Mr. Clarke replied that he felt it best to let the new Library Director, Robert Maclean, get his feet on the ground before he speaks to him about it - but added they would like a decision soon. He wanted to note that it was a financial issue as well, but again, they would like to put something in there.

In speaking about the cost of the interior work, Mr. Clarke said it was estimated to be in the \$1.5 million dollar range - and that would include replacing the windows, HVAC, handicapped accessibility. He wanted to point out that at this point they would not need to include the cost of a new boiler, as the old one has just been replaced.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan asked if the plan was to use the library's space to generate income.

Mr. Clarke said they would like to utilize the first floor of the library, including the historical books/items (some donated by Joe Merten). Further they would like to create a meeting room in the basement. He said he could see them renting it out for something like 'receptions' - or it could be used as office space. He felt it was a great location. He told members that if they use it for public use it would have to be made handicapped accessible; i. e., the addition of elevators - or if necessary they could look into obtaining a waiver. Additionally if offered for public use, they would also need to increase the parking (they were looking at the Northeast corner). Lastly he said he thought it would be a helpful to form a group called "The Friends of the Fog Library".

Ms. Purdy-Quinian commented 'people out there like to donate to those types of things'. She added she would like to see Jim Clarke on the Board.

Ms. Torrey suggested speaking with Lynne Spencer, who has helped out with Abigail Adams house.

Wessagusset Wetland & Woodland

Ms. Purdy-Quinian said she would like to make arrangements with an arborist and the Town's conservation agent (MaryEllen Schloss) to walk the park and look at the plant life. Further she would like to put something together - a real plan. She noted that through the use of volunteers they were able to preserve a wetland. In speaking with Ms. Schloss she told her they should first get rid of the invasive species then let nature take its course. She pointed out that presently there were 20-30 oaks there. She said she would like to do the digging ASAP and bring in 2 ft. high plants and get them planted - possibly put them in other places too. In closing she said she would like to take a more aggressive, assertive stand.

In response Mr. Clarke told her to pick a date for the walk-through.

Ms. Purdy-Quinian said that she has also been working on the appropriate language for a sign. Ms. Purdy-Quinian went on to say that she has been planning on doing a 'shoot' there some time this Spring (March/April), so that it would fall around the time of the 'killings'. Additionally she thought she might want to work with WETC on this.

Mr. Clarke suggested she put a proposal together for Mary Henrichs/WETC and at some point could see if it would work for her. He also suggested that Ms. Purdy-Quinian work with Ted Clarke on it, adding, "he's such a great speaker" - and again recommended she speak with Ms. Heinrichs personally regarding her idea.

Ms. Purdy-Quinian said she would like to talk about preserving the site, and tie it into the wetland. She thought she might pursue getting some money from the Fore River Watershed Assn, and possible some others.

Old Business

Mr. Clarke said he would look into Voc-Tech replacing the missing sign and would also speak with Lowe's about donating the material.

Mr. Walker said he wanted to invite the new Library Director to speak to the Commission at an upcoming meeting - and in speaking with Mr. Maclean about it he informed him that he would be available for the March meeting.

Ms. Purdy-Quinian moved to invite Rob Maclean/Library Director to speak to the Commission at the March 8th meeting.

Mr. Smith seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

Civil War Lecture Update
Mr. Clarke stated the Civil War Committee would be holding their next meeting on Thursday (2/10) and at that time they would schedule the first couple of lecture dates (April/May/June). He also had plans to roll out the publicity next month. He also stated that he would like to hold the lecture series in the Town Council Chambers at Town Hall.

Ms. Torrey suggested sending out invitations.

Mr. Clarke said he spoke about hosting a Civil War Round Table.

It was noted that the lectures would be taped by WETC for use in the future.

Additionally Chris Hannan of the CPC is working on getting material together on what was taking place in Weymouth at that point in history.

Jim Clarke will speak about Thomas Hamilton, Civil War veteran and recipient of the Medal of Honor.

Mr. Walker suggested bringing in a gentleman he knew of who could speak on Fort Warren/the Civil War.

Mr. Clarke said he wouldn't mind bringing in a noted civil war speaker, although he initially wanted the Civil War lectures to be Weymouth-related only.


Ms. Purdy-Quinlan asked about Bobby Lundeen and Mr. Clarke replied that Mary Dorey might be handling that.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan said that she could help there, commenting that he has an incredible display. She went on to note that March 1621 was when Squanto sailed up the North coast of Massachusetts with Miles Standish and others to check out the area and visit the graves of Chicakatabut - but discovered the graves had been raided in Squantum - adding that was what the beginning of the feud/war.

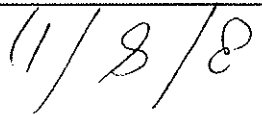
Adjournment

Mr. Smith moved to adjourn at 7:45 PM and to meet again on Tuesday, March 8th, 2011.

Ms. Torrey seconded.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED



Ted Clarke, Chair



Date 2/8/11

Susan DeChristoforo
Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted,