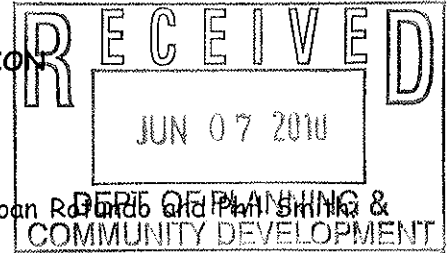


WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Weymouth Town Hall - Kelly Room
March 9th, 2010 Meeting



PRESENT: Ted Clarke/Chairman, Mary Dorey, Ed Walker, Joan R. D'Amico and Phil Smith &
Don Mathewson

ALSO PRESENT: Jody Lehrer, Community Development Coordinator

Chairman

Chairman Ted Clarke called the March 9th, 2010 meeting of the Weymouth Historical Commission to order at 7:00 PM.

Minutes - February 9th, 2010

Mr. Walker moved to approve the minutes of the February 9th, 2010 meeting as amended.

Ms. Dorey seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

Reports - Town Liaison

Status of Fogg Library

Ms. Lehrer reported that the contract for the exterior of the Fogg Library has been awarded to Calantonio Inc. of Holliston in the amount of \$1,201,000. The contractor is scheduled to move forward beginning March 24th.

Fogg Library Reuse Committee

Ms. Lehrer informed members that the next meeting of the Fogg Library Reuse Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, March 23rd at the local bank, adding that the meeting is opened to the public. She also wanted to note that Joanne LaMothe/Director of Libraries would be the contact person for anyone with questions.

Mr. Smith stated that when he was President of the Weymouth Historical Society, they spoke about opening a museum at the Fogg Library, but repairs and funding proved to be a problem.

Mr. Walker noted that the present plans are under discussion, but wanted to point out before they proceed that they need to take into consideration any state restrictions on the building. He went on to say that in 1997 when the library was restored for the Town's 100th Anniversary, there were restrictions placed on the proposed work because of its historical significance.

Chairman Clarke suggested the state has been kept apprised of the proposed work and would monitor it.

Ms. Lehrer said the Fogg Reuse Committee members are presently looking into appropriate uses for the building.

Mr. Walker commented that he was still looking for copies of their meeting minutes.

Ms. Lehrer suggested that he contact Joanne LaMothe (Director of the Weymouth Libraries) and she should be able to help him with that.

Fulton School (Residence)/Pond School located on Pond Street

Ms. Lehrer reported that the Mass. Historical Commission has accepted the building for the state's Historical Registry. The structure has been renovated and will now be used for senior condos.

Ms. Lehrer went on to inform members that a letter from William Galvin/Sec. of State and Brona Simon/Ma. Historical Commission was sent to Mr. Richard Hayden, Fulton School Residence LP/Stratford Capital Group LLC with regard to the National Register of Historic Places. In the letter it confirmed that the Pond Street School (Fulton School) was accepted on 2/12/10 by the National Park Service to be included in the National Register (a copy of this letter was sent to Jim Clarke and Chairman Clarke).

Chairman Clarke added that they have applied in for the Massachusetts Historical Commission Preservation award, the same one the WHC received last year.

Legion Field

Ms. Lehrer reported that \$271,000 was approved for the brick pier replacement, now they are seeking a designer to draw up the plans/specs.

Reed Cemetery

Ms. Lehrer told members that work rehabbing the cemetery stones is scheduled to begin in the Spring.

Mr. Smith asked about the amount of funding and Ms. Rotondo (the Board's designee on the Cemetery Committee) said she wasn't aware of the exact amount.

Update on Historical Plaques

Ms. Lehrer told members that three (3) of the approved historical house plaques have been finished and she was recommending that presentation of the plaques be scheduled for the next meeting - possibly with the Mayor in attendance.

Members agreed that the Mayor should be invited to attend the Historical House Plaque ceremony at the next meeting scheduled for April 13th.

The names/homes receiving plaques are as follows:

- 1) 58 Church Street - the Blanchard House
- 2) 104 Lake Street - The Valenti family
- 3) 237 Pine Street - the Jacobs family

Ms. Lehrer informed members that although they had approved a 4th plaque, the money was never received by the owners to have the sign created - even after many calls. She also informed members that a plaque application is expected for another home over 100 years old located on Randall Ave. Additionally she noted that other applications have been sent out for the plaques and she is expecting to hear back from the owners in the near future.

Update on Museum Cases

Mr. Smith told members that he spoke with the School Dept. about any surplus museum cases they might have on hand, but was told that they are very hard to come by. Next he will try checking with some 'used office furniture' businesses.

Chairman Clarke informed him that Quincy Public Schools used to have a store where they resold old unused furniture - and suggested he give them a call.

Mr. Smith responded that he would look at their website.

CPC

No update this evening re. the Community Preservation Committee.

Massachusetts Historical Commission Grant

Ms. Lehrer reported that applications for Round 16 (grant) for monies from the Massachusetts Preservation Fund have been sent out with the deadline for receipt of applications being April 9, 2010. She explained that it was a 50/50 State Grant (matching funds).

Chairman Clarke noted it was mentioned in MHC newsletter, adding you can request that the Newsletter be sent to you.

Chairman Clarke also noted the newsletter had an article on a court case in reference to 'demo delay'. The case involved an owner who did not want their property listed on the 'demo delay' list, but the judge ruled against this request.

Unfinished Business

Architectural Preservation District

Chairman Clarke next reported that he, Ed Walker and Phil Smith met with Mayor Kay and invited Phil Smith to tell the members about the meeting.

Mr. Smith informed members that he felt it was a positive meeting with the Mayor being very receptive to their idea of the Town creating Architectural Preservation Districts. It was agreed that they would send her additional information on it and she will take it before the Town Council.

Mr. Walker added that they left her a copy of the bylaw and at this point they will wait for her to get back to the Commission, with the Chairman adding - if they don't they will contact her.

Mr. Smith said he was not sure they were clear in regard to it being for a 'building', with Mr. Walker interjecting that during their discussion they referred to a building in her neighborhood, and again reiterated that the Mayor said she would get back to them and sounding very positive about their recommendation.

Chairman Clarke commented that when they spoke about the historical buildings that have lost in the past - such as the John Hancock House on Beacon Hill, referring to how it got torn down. He also pointed out that the 'old state house' located in Boston was almost lost to the City of Chicago.

Next the Chairman asked members if they knew anything about Weymouth's "Newcomer Club" and Mary Dorey responded that it was her understanding the organization was for those residents new to the Town, who join to find out more about the Town what's going on - but, she added, you can remain in the club for as long as you want.

Chairman Clarke informed members that he recently met with them at the Weymouth Heights Legion Post, adding that most of the members range in age from 75-85 years.

It was noted that the organization originated back in 1952 and at that time included a lot of newly weds.

The Chairman said he was surprised to find out that now most of the members are much older than he anticipated, adding that they are a great group, very interested in history. When he appeared before them he spoke about Weymouth's history and about his new book.

New Business

Kevitt Award

Members discussed a candidate for this years Kevitt Award.

Mr. Walker took a moment to explain to the new members that the award is named after the founder/first Chairman of the Weymouth Historical Commission - Chester Kevitt, who headed up the Commission for quite a while. Additionally he was the Curator of the Weymouth Historical Society as well as their President. The plaque is currently located in the Tufts Library/Town Museum. He went on to explain that every year the membership votes for a deserving person involved in the preservation of Weymouth's history.

It was also suggested that Mayor Kay be extended an invitation to present the award and at the same time they would serve some refreshments.

Past recipients for the Chester Kevitt Award have been:

- John Iredale
- Dick Pattison (past member of the Commission)
- Barbara Johnson
- Mary Toomey.

For this year Chairman Clarke was recommending Mr. Joe Merten, based in part on a conversation he had with Jim Clarke/Director of Planning & Community Development. He noted that Mr. Merten is the owner of the Charles B. Hastings House. He noted that Don Mathewson had introduced him to Mr. Merten and that he, Jim Clarke and Mayor Kay actually met with him at his home. During their meeting Joe showed them the many historical artifacts he had including some paintings and at that time Mr. Merten told them that he would like to donate many of these items to the Town.

Mr. Smith commented that he met him about 6 months ago and found him to be very interesting person.

Mr. Walker moved to nominate Joe Merten as the recipient of the 2010 Chester Kevitt Award.

Ms. Dorey seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

Chairman Clarke added that during their meeting Mr. Merten told him that his school teacher was Alice Fulton.

Chairman Clarke then spoke about Frank Lloyd Wright, the prominent architect, who lived for a short time (when he was between the ages of 10-12 years old) in Lincoln Square - where Union Towers I is located. Frank's father was the minister for the church that was also located in Lincoln Square - south of where the old Weymouth Landing Fire station was located. Additionally his sister won many national awards and her daughter won the Newbury Award (best book of the year).

Then members spoke about the church that he designed 'Holy Nativity Church' and that they were fortunate to have saved the stained glass window as well as the organ from the church.

At this point it was noted that the Kevitt Award is usually presented in June.

It was agreed that the Chairman will draft a letter to Joe Merten informing him of the award/Commission's vote. He recommended that an oral history be taken from Mr. Merten as he is getting on in years and in failing health, adding he has a lot of valuable information. He commented that he viewed him as a real historian and archivist.

Canoe Update

Mr. Walker reported that he expected to finish the work on the canoe with the help of the Library's custodian and with Phil Smith's assistance.

Chairman Clarke felt it might be better to present the Kevitt Award at the museum, in place of Town Hall.

Mr. Walker will look into reserving the room at the Tufts Library for June 8th.

It was also agreed that the monthly meeting be held their following the presentation - and to have the announcement put into the newspaper.

Announcements

Next meeting 4/13/10

The next monthly meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 13, 2010.

Adjournment

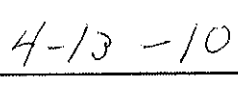
Mr. Walker moved to adjourn at 7:38 PM.

Ms. Dorey seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED



Ted Clarke, Chair



Date

Respectfully submitted,

Susan DeChristoforo
Recording Secretary