

WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Meeting  
Francis Kelly Room/Weymouth Town Hall

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK  
WEYMOUTH, MASS

2011 JUN - 9 P 2:49

RECEIVED

PRESENT: Chairman Ted Clarke, Mary Dorey, Don Mathewson and Ed Walker

ABSENT: Phil Smith, Cathy Torrey and Jody Purdy-Quinlan

ALSO PRESENT: Jody Lehrer/Community Development Coordinator, Office of Planning and Community Development

**Call to Order 7 p.m.**

Chairman Clarke called the April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting to order at 7:05 PM

**Minutes**

Mr. Walker moved to approve the minutes of the March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting.

Ms. Dorey seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

**Reports - Town Liaison**

Ms. Lehrer took a moment to pass out pamphlets to the members entitled "Weymouth Historical Commission presents Weymouth and the Civil War". She also spoke about the posters that would be going on display; one currently is on display at Town Hall. Additionally Mayor Kay has one that she has posted.

Ms. Lehrer also distributed a copy of flyer created by the Abigail Adams Historical Society which included an article entitled " '10, Another Footnote in History '11 A Step Into the Future". Also included on the bottom of the page was an application/form, which needed to be filled out/returned if the person wanted to attend the AAHS Annual Meeting/dinner on Wednesday May 25<sup>th</sup> at the Hearth & Kettle Restaurant in Weymouth along with a check to the AAHS with a check for \$25.00.

**South Shore Hospital Expansion**

Next Ms. Lehrer spoke about receiving a letter from South Shore Hospital outlining their expansion of the hospital/the Emerson Building located at 54 Fogg Road/895 Main Street at Columbian Square (a copy also went to the Mass. Historical Commission). In the letter they asked the Commission to review the project and to address if the building would have any impact on the town's history. She told members that Jim Clarke would like them respond.

Mr. Walker wanted to clarify that the addition was on Main Street. He then referred to the granite block wall along the building in this area, adding that it originally went around the Reed Estate before it was purchased by the Hospital. He was wondering if the granite wall would remain.

Ms. Lehrer said it appeared that it would remain because work has taken place and it is still there (Main/Fogg Road).

Ms. Dorey referred to the information they had been given by the Hospital that stated the trees/canopies/walls would remain - and that their design would stay consistent with the existing walls.

Ms. Lehrer told members that the letter that will go to the Hospital will state that the Weymouth Historical Commission finds there would be no historical impact re. Danforth House, 895 Main Street and will reconfirm that the granite wall will remain.

Mr. Walker moved that the Commission (Ms. Lehrer) send a letter stating that there proposed construction will have 'no historical impact' and that the Commission would like the granite block wall to remain.

Mr. Mathewson seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

### **Plaque application**

Ms. Lehrer informed members that she has received a new historical plaque application from Robert Whittaker of 46 Union Street who lives in the home, which he calls the Josiah Reed House in Columbian Square. She commented that it used to house/shelter low-income people.

It was noted that this house was built in 1865 and the Whittaker's may be seeking into a grant to upgrade the property.

Ms. Lehrer clarified the location as being near the Union Chowder House (same side of the street).

Chairman Clarke told members that he has heard from another person about a plaque on Union Street, which says "First School House" stating that it was built in 1743 (on the hill by the cemetery).

Mr. Walker commented that he thought the first schoolhouse was located in North Weymouth.

Chairman Clarke added that the plaque on Union Street was placed there by the Weymouth Historical Society. He himself has never seen it, but he understood the schoolhouse was a red wooden building.

Mr. Walker moved to approve the plaque request by Robert Whittaker for 46 Union Street to be called "The Josiah Reed House".

Ms. Dorey seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

Ms. Lehrer then referred to the Town's two new historical districts, noting that after the Massachusetts Historical Commission letters went out to those in these neighborhoods informing them that they lived in a historical district, she received (8) telephone calls asking about the designation and what it meant. They wanted to know about the background of the area. She referred them to the Tufts Library and/or the Society. She said they were very pleased to learn about the designation and some discussed the criteria for historical plaques. Based on those conversations she expects more applications in the near future. She told members that she thought she would post this information on the Town's website and give those interested the ability to download the plaque application.

Chairman Clarke said that if they do get a few more requests they might want to invite the Weymouth news and possibly Mayor Kay as they have done in the past.

Ms. Lehrer commented that in speaking with the interested residents, they were not concerned about the cost of the plaque. She planned on calling Mike (the sign maker) at Yankee Woodcarvers to update him.

Mr. Walker offered to get some information together on the historical districts for those who expressed interest in knowing the historical background. He believed that a booklet is available from the Massachusetts Historical Commission giving the background on the historical district(s), which he would use for this purpose.

Ms. Lehrer explained that the historical background information they have on Front Street and Meeting House Historical Districts was what was submitted/presented by the consultants (Timothy Orwig and PAL), adding members can have a copy of this.

Mr. Walker said he would like to see a copy in the libraries too.

Ms. Lehrer clarified that this packet would not have a lot of information on the individual houses. She told Mr. Walker that she would copy both reports for the library.

Ms. Dorey referred to the historical furniture cases in Town Hall, stating that the problem with placing items in there is the custodian (George) who must be present. She told members that she didn't want to keep these items in her home, so she needs to coordinate transferring them to Town Hall with George.

#### **Civil War pamphlet expense**

Chairman Clarke asked about the bill/invoice for the Civil War pamphlets. He noted that Jim Clarke told him they ordered around 300, with half going to the libraries and the balance to the Commission.

Ms. Dorey moved that the Commission pay their share of the printing expense for the Civil War pamphlets and the posters.

Mr. Walker seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

#### **Demolition Delay by-law review**

Chairman Clarke told members that Jim Clarke has informed him that periodically the Commission needs to look at the Ordinance for the Demo Delay properties. He recommended they cross-index them and then they would have to add more houses to the list, but in order to do this there is a procedure they need to go through. At this point he was not sure about the public hearing requirement. He said they would want to look at the two new historical districts and Sea Street.

Ms. Dorey agreed that they needed to finish the list and review the process.

#### **Kevitt Award**

Chairman Clarke asked members about a name for this year's recipient for the Chester Kevitt Award, noting that last year (June) it was given to Joe Merten. He said members feel it was appropriate they could skip a year, that it was not necessary to have one every year.

Members will give this some thought.

**Announcement- Civil War Lecture Sunday, May 1st, 3pm**

In regard to historical plaque designations, Mr. Walker wanted to point out that the first Town Common was at one time located on Church Street - across from the First Church.

Chairman Clarke said they are supposed to be getting some other plaques made up, but he wasn't sure who makes them (DPW??). He will bring this subject up next time Jim Clarke attends a meeting.

Mr. Walker noted that there was a piece of granite there - and that possibly they could use it.

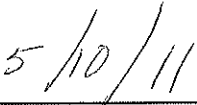
**Adjournment**

Mr. Walker moved to adjourn at 7:55 PM and to meet again on Tuesday, May 10th, 2011.

Mr. Mathewson seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

  
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Ted Clarke, Chair

  
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Date

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan DeChristoforo  
Recording Secretary