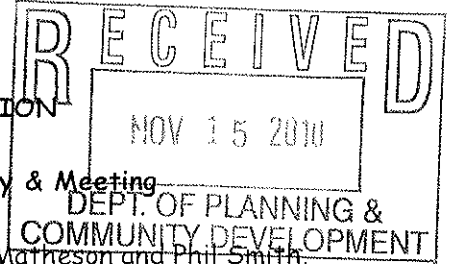


WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Tufts Library
June 15th, 2010 Chester Kevitt Award Ceremony & Meeting



PRESENT: Ted Clarke/Chairman, Ed Walker, Joan Rotundo, Don Matheson and Phil Smith.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Sue Kay
Joseph Merten, Recipient of the Chester Kevitt Award
Jim Clarke, Director of Planning & Community Development
Jody Lehrer, Community Development Coordinator
Approximately 50 residents/friends/students of Joe Merten, CKA Recipient

At 6:40 PM Chairman Ted Clarke welcomed all to the 2010 presentation of the Chester Kevitt Award Ceremony. He first explained that the Chester Kevitt Award for Historic Preservation is awarded annually to a person who has made a significant contribution in the area of historic preservation to the Town of Weymouth.

Chairman Clarke spoke a little about Mr. Joseph Merten, the 2010 Recipient of the Chester Kevitt Award. He told those present that Joe has spent his life in the service of others - as an educator (teacher/principal) in the Town of Weymouth. In describing the caliber of the man, he told how when he retired as principal of Wessagusset School in 1973, the school wanted to give him a cash gift, but he asked that the money be used instead for student scholarships - and today there are now (3) scholarships given out in his name for Wessagusset students. In his earlier life he served in the Korean War - and while he was there he established a school for the soldiers who were in need of a better education.

Next Chairman Clarke he spoke about Joe's friendship with Alice Fulton (the Fulton School is named in her honor), who upon her death left him her house located on Columbian Street - a house that includes many valuable/historical paintings and artifacts. It was noted that his Dad died young and at that time the family was experiencing financial difficulties. Joe has stated often that he was very grateful for the financial assistance the Town gave him and his large family. Joe and his brother ended up living in Alice Fulton's house - along with their Mom until she passed away.

Chairman Clarke also wanted those present to know that Mr. Merten, not only is a historian but he is also an avid gardener - with his home being featured on many garden tours.

Chairman Clarke further spoke about his good fortune in visiting Joe's home this past year, commenting not only did they have the gift of viewing all the artwork, but also all kinds of printed material having to do with Weymouth's history. Additionally, he said, what is impressive about the collection is the manner in which Joe has everything catalogued and labeled - and that he has written out each items personal history.

At this point Chairman Clarke introduced Mayor Sue Kay.

Mayor Kay began by speaking directly to Mr. Merten stating enthusiastically "Joe you are wonderful!" She stated that she majored in History at Bridgewater State College, but after spending time with Joe she felt that she could have qualified for her Master's - she quickly interjected "but now I will call that a Doctorate". She wanted Joe to know that having the honor of making tonight's presentation was one of the best things she has gotten to do as the Mayor of Weymouth - and she was honored to be given this responsibility.

Then Joe Merten came forward to accept the award from Mayor Kay.

Joseph Merten addressed his acceptance by telling a little about his life - first about his childhood, noting his parents were married in 1925. Their home was near the filtration plant, with a view of the Pond. There were six children in his family. In 1933, at the height of the depression, they had one of the coldest winters on record and his Dad came down with pneumonia, dying a week before Christmas. He commented that it was a different time then, they had not money - no life insurance. Fortunately they received money from the Town - money that they gave out in situations like that. He wanted those present to know that the Town was wonderful to him and his family. Further he explained that his Dad's family had died before his parents married, adding they had the first pharmacy in Roslindale. When he came home from the war he went to work there. He said that his aunt saved everything at that time and passed everything on to him.

Mr. Merten went on to say that his mother was a wonderful person and always treated his friends special when he brought them home with him from school. She lived until she was over 90 years old. When she died he was pleased that he was able to get all his family to the hospital in time to say goodbye, adding they were still very young at that time. In closing he wanted once again to thank the Town for all they did for him and his family.... giving his mother and father a place to bring up their family. He also wanted to thank all of his wonderful friends, some of which were present this evening.

At this point Chairman Clarke opened the presentation to any who would like to speak.

One person in the audience wanted to comment on his Mom's wonderful voice, adding she would sing anytime she was asked.

Another person spoke stating 'Joe was my principal and I because of him I went on to become a teacher'.

At that point Joe interjected a little humor stating that he received many calls when he was young, and his father with his sense of humor would answer 'Duffy's Tavern, Duffy speaking'.

Next Kathy (Kilburn) McDonald spoke and said she had two tragedies in her family and through both of these Mr. Merten proved to be a stabilizing influence - adding, "without him, I wouldn't be who I am today".

Mary Matheson Heinrich was the next speaker and told those present that whenever she visited him, she would never leave his house without a flower from his beautiful garden. When she was a child at Wessagusset School she participated in the music program, recalling that after practice

Mr. Merton would take them all out to "Friendly's" for an ice cream - and at that time she thought that was the greatest thing!

Joe spoke again stating that when he was young he got a job as a stock boy at IGA and one Friday Mrs. Alice Fulton came in and asked for someone to mow her lawn and he offered to do so. He added that the grass was so long he needed to cut it with a scythe - and from that point on he retained that position - for over 40 years, adding when he took 'recess' she would also feed him. He said she was a wonderful person! Further her father worked for the railroad and one day he made a misjudgment and was thrown from the train that he was working on with the result being he lost both his legs and then his life. From that point family members took her in and they loved and cared for her.

Mr. Merten further informed those present that when he was in the 9th grade her grandmother (who she was living with at the time) died, then her aunt Mrs. Hastings (who did not have any children) took care of her. She went on to attend Weymouth Schools and then Bridgewater State College to become a teacher in a 1-room schoolhouse on Pond Street. He stated that he would be happy to accept the Award in Alice Fulton's memory, as well as in honor of his parents, the Tirrell's, Holbrook's and Hunt families. He concluded by stating that it all has been a great experience.

Another person in the audience then chose to get up and thank Joe for the Garden Tour of his home, adding she was also a member of the Weymouth Garden Club.

Another gentleman got up to say that he found Joe's Garden Tour to be a great success, jokingly adding - with the exception of the long line to get in. It was also noted that it raised a lot of money.

Mr. Merten was happy to say that he has now become an 'honorary' member of the Garden Club.

Mr. Merten was then thanked by a member of the audience for sharing his garden, which it was noted he has been sharing for some time.

Mr. Merten then referred to the number of paintings he owns - and that he will be contributing to the Town. He went on to give a detailed background of each including one by E. Aubrey Hunt, who owned the first fan company in America. He then referred to another painting purchased by Joe Tirrell who built the first shoe factory in Weymouth in 1810 - where the Colonial Nursing Home is now located. He said that one of his grandsons went to Florence to study art - around the time of the Civil War - and that Francis Hastings had them in her home for many years. He noted that the girl who cleaned and restored them now works in Washington, DC. He next told a story about discovering some special tiles that came from Harrington's - as well as other hard-to-find beautiful tiles of historic value, which he will donate the Town.

Further Mr. Merten spoke about the restoration of the historic Fogg Library in South Weymouth - adding that because it is not big enough for today's needs it is being restored and will be used in a variety of ways; i. e., one section will hold books, another section will be dedicated to Weymouth's history - and this is where the tiles he referred to will be displayed as well as the paintings he is donating to the Town (Hunt, Tirrell, E. Aubrey Hunt).

(photographs of these pictures were on display for those who would were interested).

In referring to the paintings, Mr. Merten noted that he purchased one for just \$25.00 and now it is valued at over \$4,000. Additionally, he has contacted the Museum of Fine Arts about the best manner in which to display them - he was presently waiting to hear back.

The last speaker was a woman from Norway who wanted to express her affection for Joe. It was explained that although neither spoke each other's language they have communicated from some time anyway - with the last comment from the women being "he was amazing!"

The presentation concluded and refreshments were served.

WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING
Tufts Library - Canoe Room
June 15th, 2010

PRESENT: Ted Clarke, Chairman, Ed Walker, Joan Rotondo, Don Matheson and Phil Smith

ALSO PRESENT: Jim Clarke, Director of Planning & Community Development
Jody Lehrer, Community Development Coordinator

Chairman Ted Clarke called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Walker moved to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2010 meeting as written.

Motion Seconded.

Discussion: Mr. Clarke asked to change the word 'fort' to 'port'.
Accepted.

Mr. Walker moved to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2010 meeting as amended.
Mr. Smith seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

At this point Chairman Clarke announced that Joan Rotondo would be leaving the Commission as her term has expired - and he wanted to take this opportunity to thank her for her excellent service.

REPORTS

Ms. Lehrer distributed a letter to the members from the Mass. Department of Transportation in regard to the Fore River Bridge Replacement.

Next Ms. Lehrer addressed the Notification re. the Environmental Impact re. CDBG project in regard to the Housing Rehab Program. She explained that although the project would have no impact; they are required to give notice to the Weymouth Historical Commission.

Chairman Clarke informed members that he received a call from Bill Pepe who told him that a young woman from the cable channel - A & E (Arts & Entertainment) wanted to know about "King Phillip's war in Weymouth" which took place at the area of Washington and Middles Streets - as well as more information about the Indians, which he gave her.

Legion Field Wall Update

Mr. Clarke informed members they have the architect on board for the Legion Field Wall replacement and rehab work which includes:

- brick piers
- ironwork
- cement foundation

The bids for the work are expected this summer with work hopefully to begin in the Fall.

Fogg Library Update

Mr. Clarke reported that the Fogg Library exterior work is moving along and is on schedule. The work includes:

- slate removal of the roof and resealing it
- taking the stone down
- repair work

He explained that the 'bracing' work involves a complicated system - and lastly that the new roof will go on last, commenting that the slate roof is very worn as it is over 100 years old.

Mr. Walker interjected that he didn't think the rehab work would take as much stone.

Mr. Clarke told him that some areas had to be tested, adding that some of the repair work was not anticipated - the problems were found when it was opened. He said they were waiting for one more meeting of the Reuse Committee and when the report is complete it will go to Mayor Kay.

Mr. Walker asked if it would also go to the Town Council for their review/approval and Mr. Clarke replied 'no', it was not necessary, as the work is not funded through a Line Item. Next stage calls for completion/renovation of the interior of the library. They are hoping to get the funds from the CPC and possibly the state.

Mr. Walker asked if the Commission could see copies of the report and Mr. Clarke replied 'yes'. He said that when the Commission asked about the posting of the minutes he spoke to them about it a couple of times, adding they should be on the website. He told Mr. Walker he would send them to him electronically.

Mr. Walker emphasized that his main concern was the first floor preservation.

Mr. Clarke acknowledged this.

Open Space Plan

Mr. Clarke told members that they are preparing a new Open Space Plan and they have hired a consultant. The work will include some Town departments, including the Planning staff, Health Dept., Conservation Office. He pointed out that part of the Plan includes the historical aspect of the Town; i. e., preservation of buildings, etc. He told the members that they would also be consulting with them.

Abigail Adams Update

Mr. Clarke said they are making use of the funds from the Conservation Preservation Act. They have spoken with Cathy Torrey, adding that the report is essentially complete and should be ready soon.

Reed Cemetery

Mr. Clarke stated that the CPC is funding the restoration of Reed Cemetery. Currently they are working with a conservator who did the Elmwood Cemetery. Additionally they have a contractor who determines the type of treatment needed. Further the DPW has been requested to trim the trees in the cemetery - and the work will be ongoing this Summer.

Chairman Clarke asked about Washington/Middle Street location re. the new traffic lights.

Jim Clarke said that the consultant is looking at what's out there, adding that he and Chairman Ted Clarke gave some commentary. He said that the brick wall where the King Phillip Plaque is located wouldn't be touched. They have asked that the brick wall be continued right up to the new sidewalk - as well as replacing the shrubbery with new plantings.

Mr. Walker wanted to point out that it was the site of the first Town Hall.

Mr. Clarke said a suggestion was also made - requesting an illustrated display of Town Hall. He said that the first priority at this point is tying the Memorial Plaque Wall into the sidewalk - and he commented that he hoped it would encourage people to stop and take a look.

Mr. Walker stated he thought that Walmart had agreed to do something to beautify that location - adding flowers, etc. there and Mr. Clarke responded that they did do something on their property.

Chairman Clarke stated that when the work is finished they should get an article about it in the Weymouth News.

Mr. Clarke further informed the Commission that they are going out to bid on it this Fall, with completion expected the end of this year or the first of next year,

Other Business

Mr. Walker spoke about the Railroad Bridge on Route 18 going into Abington. He said there was a plaque there, which they were supposed to take down and save.

Mr. Clarke said that the widening of Route 18 is still in the works, with all intersections complete - they are now seeking improvements for the roadway in between the intersections. He was not sure of the timetable to complete this work, but he still believed they were on schedule.

Fore River Bridge Replacement

Mr. Clarke said he reviewed the Commission's minutes re. the Fore River Bridge Presentation and he liked the members' comments. He encouraged the members to send them to the DOT consultant.

Re. the 2004 Memorial - Mr. Clarke said that the Commission could comment on the design aspects of the new bridge.

Re. Lovell's Grove

Mr. Clarke referred to the pagoda-like structures at Lovell Grove, commenting people would climb up on them to get a good view. He would like to send a picture along and ask that they consider incorporating some of these details. He also commented that during the presentation they spoke about art deco ideas. He commented, "if we are going to have a Vertical Lift Bridge, let's make it look good!" and reiterated that it couldn't hurt to send these ideas along.

Mr. Smith said he looked at the Chelsea Bridge that DOT referred to during their presentation - commenting, "it's not attractive".

Chairman Clarke referred to the Cape Cod Railroad Bridge that was also mentioned, and he said going with that design would make it higher.

Mr. Clarke said he would like to send the minutes as previously mentioned as well as these comments/ideas along to the appropriate DOT person.

All members agreed.

Ms. Lehrer then presented the pamphlets/maps drafted in part by Don Matheson, adding she would have the poster at the next meeting.

Chairman Clarke asked if it could go on the Town's website and the response was 'yes'.

Mr. Clarke said he would like to put it up in Town Hall with Mayor Kay's support.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Walker nominated Ted Clarke as Chairman.
Seconded.

There were no other nominations.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

Mr. Smith nominated Ed Walker as Vice-Chairman.
Seconded.

There were no other nominations
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

Mr. Walker nominated Phil Smith as Curator.
Seconded.

There were no other nominations.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

2010 Officers:

Ted Clarke, Chairman
Ed Walker, Vice-Chairman
Phil Smith, Curator

NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the Commission would be off for the Summer months with the next meeting of the Commission taking place on the second Tuesday in September.

ADJOURNMENT

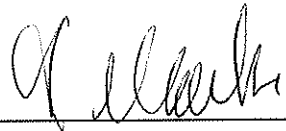
Mr. Walker moved to adjourn at 7:45 PM.

Mr. Smith seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED



Ted Clarke, Chair



Date

Respectfully submitted,

Susan DeChristoforo
Recording Secretary