

WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL COMMISSION
September 14th, Meeting
Francis Kelly Room/Weymouth Town Hall

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK
WEYMOUTH, MASS

2011 SEP 14 A 10: 39

RECEIVED

PRESENT: Ted Clarke/Chairman, Ed Walker, and Phil Smith
ABSENT: Jody Purdy-Quinlan and Mary Dorey
ALSO PRESENT: Jim Clarke/Director of Planning and Community Development
Jody Lehrer/Community Development Coordinator, Office of Planning and
Community Development

I. Chairman

Chairman Clarke called the September 14th, 2010 meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Chairman Clarke then announced the name of the new member replacing Joan Rotundo is Kathy Torrey (also a member of the Abigail Adams Society).

II. Minutes

There were no minutes to approve this evening.

III. Reports

Ms. Lehrer informed members that she had information for the Commission from Jim Clarke, which is as follows:

Fogg Library

This project is on schedule for completion by October 15th. Most of the resetting of the stone on the exterior of the library has been completed and the repointing is underway. The roofers have begun to install the roof - further that additional work scheduled will include:

- repairing the large window located in the stairwell
- refinishing the entry doors
- replacement of the metal basement doors

Lastly reuse options are under review.

Legion Field

Work on the brick piers began this week. Northern Contracting, low bidder, was awarded the contract. The work is scheduled to be complete in 90 days. The contractor plans to do the first third - then work on the rest of the memorial wall. A sample pier is expected to be constructed soon.

Herring Run Pool

The dedication of the Herring Run Pool will be Thursday, September 16th at 6 PM. It was noted that the Herring Run Park has (2) kiosks that explain the history of the herring run. On the back wall of the Venetian Restaurant, two murals have been installed - one mural is an historical depiction of the herring harvest.

National Historic Register Districts Update

At Massachusetts Historical Commission's September 8th meeting they approved both the Meeting House District and the Front Street District.

Kibby Parcel

At the end of June the Town acquired the Kibby parcel of land - located next to the Abigail Adams State Park.

Farmers Market

This Saturday (September 18th) the Town will celebrate 'Jackson Square Village' at the (weekly) Farmer's Market that takes place at Town Hall between the hours of 9AM and 1 PM. It is expected there will be over a dozen village merchants participating and they will be promoting their individual businesses along with the (18) regular farmers/vendors.

Landing PWED

The 'draft' street improvement plans for the Weymouth Landing will be shown at a public meeting scheduled to be held at Braintree Town Hall at 7 PM on Wednesday, October 6th. These funds are part of a state grant of over \$2,000,000 to be used for:

- road repaving
- new sidewalks (with brick accent borders)
- street trees
- ornamental lighting
- enhanced pedestrian walkways

Abigail Adams Society

The Abigail Adams Society will be presenting the results of their Preservation Study at Weymouth's Community Preservation Commission meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 7th.

Reed Cemetery

The restoration of the gravestones at Reed Cemetery continues at the cemetery.

Lastly it was reported that the cell tower at Old South Union Church is being installed.

Mr. Walker commented that he thought they already had a cell tower there and Mr. Clarke replied that they actually have a couple, explaining this installation came about because of new technology.

Chairman Clarke asked if it would look different.

Mr. Clarke explained that the installation would take place mostly on the inside - and there would be possibly (1) GPS outside which he described as a 12" piece. He pointed out that they try to make sure the installers locate it unobtrusively.

Mr. Walker noted that it didn't seem to be affecting the clock, with Mr. Smith commenting 'they usually blend it in pretty well'.

Mr. Smith asked if there was anyone overseeing the Pratt Library program.

Mr. Clarke responded that the architects (McKinnell, McKinnell & Taylor) hold a weekly on-site meeting that also includes himself and Jeff Richards/Building Inspector. He commented that he was very pleased with their work as well as their work ethic.

Mr. Clarke then asked if any of the members had seen the WETC (Weymouth Educational Cable Channel) program, commenting that it was very good. It included McKinnell, McKinnell and Mason - and included a few others. He found it to be very informative and interesting; the speakers describe in detail the restoration work they are doing.

(It was noted that Mr. Clarke would give a copy of the DVD to Ed Walker).

Mr. Walker asked if the members would be receiving a final report on how the building would be re-used.

Mr. Clarke told him the report was in the Mayor's office, adding that it has been signed off on.

Herring Run

Mr. Clarke said that he hoped to have Ted Clarke as the guest speaker at the Herring Run dedication. He spoke about the kiosk that is there depicting the history of the herring and the herring run. He said he worked with the Cultural Council and the Art Association on this project. In working with the Arts Council they selected the best pictures to display in relation to the Run - noting they can be found up in the back, on the wall of the Venetian. He spoke about one created by an historical photographer that showed the harvesting of the herring.

Chairman Clarke informed the members that a South Shore Military History Roundtable person called and spoke with him seeking historical information. He told members that he would be speaking on November 6th at Adams Academy in Quincy.

Ms. Lehrer commented that they were very interested in Ted Clarke as a guest speaker.

Chairman Clarke said one of the things they wanted to know about was a local airstrip that was here in the 20's, but he said no one seemed to know about it.

Mr. Smith interjected that there was one located near the Hingham Shipyard.

Chairman Clarke was aware of that one, adding 'but that was not the one they were asking about'.

Next Jim Clarke noted that next year will be the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and he thought the Weymouth Historical Commission could sponsor/lecture on this subject throughout the course of the year - more specifically about Weymouth it's affects/input re. the Civil War - answering such questions as:

- what was going on then
- what Weymouth people served in the Civil War
- the events that lead up to the Civil War
- Maria ? Chapman

Chairman Clarke said he did some research on the Civil War monuments and he could speak about that.

Mr. Smith was very interested in the subject and in participating. He said that James L. Bates, a schoolteacher, is an expert on the subject, adding that he himself had been to Gettysburg.

Mr. Clarke was pleased with the members' enthusiasm, adding it could tie in with the Fogg Library - who could take part in it and could participate as co-sponsors. They could also have a guest lecturer.

Chairman Clarke commented that he could possibly meet someone with this historical knowledge at the Historical Military Conference on 11/6.

Mr. Clarke thought they might be able to do something over a weekend, adding that the Town of Hingham celebrated their history over a period of 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ years.

Mr. Clarke and members spoke about acknowledging the event in several ways:

- holding (6) lectures, one every other month
- using the web to place related information
- a tv/cable program
- tape lectures

It was noted that they would need some 'P R' and would also need to prepare for the lectures.

Members referred back to the newly acknowledged historical districts and it was noted that this information is on the Town's website now and explained how to get there:

Go the Town's website - click on Departments- Planning - then Historical District presentation.

In regard to the Commission's participation in the acknowledgement of Weymouth and the 150th Civil War Anniversary, Mr. Clarke said he would put together an outline with different options for the members' consideration and would try to have it done by the Commission's next meeting on October 12th.

Mr. Smith noted that Charles Hasting was a prisoner of war at that time, emphasizing that Weymouth was phenomenal in their support of the Civil War.

Chairman Clarke stated that the Town of Weymouth was one of the first towns to send troops and the first to put up a flag - and referred to Jerry Quinn.

Mr. Smith interjected that Stevens, a Commander - got a lot of the credit.

The 'Civil War' will be on the next agenda.

Old Business:

Membership

Mr. Clarke said that he expects Kathy Torrey to be confirmed in time for the October meeting.

New Business

Mr. Walker asked for a copy of the Nomination forms for the Meeting House Historical District and the Front Street Historical District - and also wanted to know the house numbers that are part of those districts.

Announcements

Mr. Smith informed those present that he would be moving out of town soon and asked if he lived out of town would he be able to complete his term.

Mr. Clarke said he would research that for him.

Adjournment

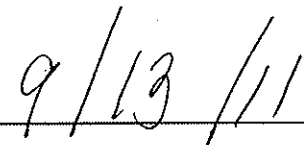
Mr. Walker moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 PM.

Seconded.

Unanimously Voted



Ted Clarke, Chair



Date

Respectfully submitted,

Susan DeChristoforo
Recording Secretary