

**WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

October 11th, 2011 Meeting

Francis Kelly Room/Weymouth Town Hall

**"WORK SESSION"**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Ed Walker and Ted Clarke

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

Town Councilor Victor Pap

Gary Peters, Fore River Bridge Neighborhood Association

As there was not a majority of the Commission members present, the Chairman decided to hold a 'work session' with member Ted Clarke - and other attendees beginning at 7:05PM.

During the meeting they would only be 'discussing' issues, no votes would be taken.

It was expected that new member Robert Lundeen would be present at November's meeting.

Ms. Lehrer reported the following:

**Civil War Lecture Update**

This Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup> there will be a Civil War Lecture on 'Monuments and Memorials' beginning at 3:00 PM.

Additionally on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> the movie "Littlest Rebel" starring Shirley Temple, which takes place during the years of the Civil War, will be featured at the Tufts Library.

Re. **Wessagusset Garden** - this item was tabled and will be addressed by Jody Purdy-Quinlan at a future meeting. It as reported that Ms. Purdy-Quinlan is seeking a motion for the formation of a Weymouth Historical Commission sub-account under the name of 'contributions'.

Legion Field Memorial Wall - DeAngelo's Iron Works who was awarded this contract, expects to have the wall (replacing and re-finishing) completed by the end of the year.

Emery Estates - Three (3) marketing proposals have been received. They are under review by the CPC/Conservation Preservation Committee. At this point the CPC will be requesting approval from the Town Counsel in the amount of \$35,000. for this purpose.

Additionally Mayor Kay is reviewing 'Letters of Interest' for the use of Emery Estates.

Chairman Walker asked if the process would include public hearings/meetings for the purpose of receiving public input.

Ms. Lehrer responded yes, adding that the process would include review and study. Also Jim Clarke will be in contact with other communities who have also gone through a similar process about their experience and recommendations.

Next Chairman Walker asked if Emery Estates (1906) was included on the Demo Delay list. Jody replied that she would look into it.

Weymouth Landing - The brickwork on the sidewalks is in process. Lighting for Front/Commercial and Washington Streets are the next step in the process.

Chairman Walker felt that they should also have a clock, possibly a historical replica - as well as landscaping, adding that North Abington has one.

Re. CPC/Elmwood Cemetery - It was noted that Abigail Adams' parents are buried there - and they are looking at Smith stones.

Generator at Town Hall - Plans are in process to camouflage it.

Next Chairman Walker then stated that he received a form from the Planning Office re. 32 Driftway Road - asking for their comments. He asked where it was located.

Gary Peters, in the audience, said it was in North Weymouth and Mr. Clarke added that he thought it was off of River Street.

It was suggested that the Town's website (property viewer) would be able to show the exact location.

After giving it further thought Mr. Clarke thought it was located off Prospect Hill.

Chairman Walker told Ms. Lehrer that he would also like a copy of the Demo Delay list.

### Fore River Bridge Update

Mr. Peters said he was before them this evening because of his concern of getting the Commission's letter out on the replacement Fore River Bridge in a timely manner. He reminded Mr. Walker and Mr. Clarke that the members voted at the last meeting that the Commission was ready to move forward with the letter and that Town Councilor Pap was to work with them on the draft and prepare it for their final approval.

Chairman Walker was hoping TC Pap would be able to make tonight's meeting. He then asked about the timetable for the bridge.

Mr. Peters said that the bridge was scheduled to be built between 2016 and 2020. He added that it was originally supposed to be a 2-5 year project, but now the time schedule has changed from 15 to 20 years.

Mr. Clarke commented that he noticed they had begun dredging.

Chairman Walker interjected that they are still going with the Fore River being 50 ft. wide.

Mr. Peters pointed out that they also need to make it deeper, but he said they couldn't because it is all ledge. He added that any federal channel must adhere to certain specs and needs Congressional approval. This one is 35 feet deep x 300 ft. wide. He quickly added that there are impediments there. He said they need to dredge the dam another 10 ft. at least. In many places it is 28 ft. He said he and his group contend, why build a big monster when in the end the ships can't come through there.

Mr. Peters went on to say that he has been dealing with the Army Corps of Engineers and found them to be very nice people, but added if you can't get a fully loaded boat in there, why build it?

Chairman Walker thought they would be bringing in cars and Mr. Peters replied that he didn't think so. Chairman Walker wanted to point out that the new ships have deep drafts, but no one has talked about that.

(TC Pap arrived).

Mr. Peters told the members that Quirk has been filling in some of the dry dock, with Chairman Walker commenting, that is why I say Mr. Quirk wants to use it for cars.

Mr. Peters then replied 'could be', although he added Citgo is the only entity at this time talking about using it.

Chairman Walker pointed out that there was a railroad line over there owned by the state.

Mr. Peters replied that's an alternative, so based on this information everything proposed doesn't make sense. He stated that DOT says the proposed bridge goes up and down fast, but in reality it doesn't do what they say it will do. He commented 'Chelsea is about to come on line, let's see what happens'. He went on to say that he heard they were talking about bringing in a fabrication situation for propellers to be used for wind turbines.

Chairman Walker stated that DOT said the proponent is looking out 100 years or so in the future.

TC Pap said that this bridge would only last 80 years. At this point he gave members a copy of his draft letter for the members review. The letter is addressed to Ms. Brona Simon, State Preservation Officer - for their approval and signature.

One sentence was changed; i. e., *The SHPO has ever appeared before the Commission to gather input on the architectural design in accordance with the agreement.* (The work 'ever' was corrected and changed to 'never').

Mr. Peters noted that at this point the 'permit' process has been stalled - which he felt was a great sign.

Chairman Walker commented that Greenbush took 20 years to get permitted.

In the letter they will include that they contact the Planning Office and Ms. Lehrer would also include the telephone number of the Planning Office. She also recommended that they include that the Weymouth Historical Commission meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month.

All agreed to the above additions/changes.

The work session concluded at 7:35 PM.

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Ed Walker, Chairman, WHC

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Date

Respectfully submitted,

Susan DeChristoforo  
Recording Secretary