

2011 DEC -7 P 3:17

WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

November 15th, 2011 Meeting

Francis Kelly Room/Weymouth Town Hall

PRESENT: Chairman Ed Walker, Mary Dorey, Cathy Torrey, Jody Purdy-Quinlan and new member Rodney Lundin.

ABSENT: Ted Clarke and Don Mathewson

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

Call to Order 7 p.m.

Chairman Walker called the November 15th, 2011 meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Minutes

Ms. Torrey moved to approve the minutes of the September 13th, 2011 meeting.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

(Mary Dorey, Ms. Purdy-Quinlan and Rodney Lundin abstained, as they were not present).

**REPORTS**

Town Liaison

Ms. Lehrer informed members that according to Jim Clarke, the work on the Legion Field wall is moving forward.

Emery Estate Update

Ms. Lehrer reported that the funding for the Emery Estate market analysis has been approved.

Fore River Bridge Update

The 25% Design Plan for the Fore River vertical lift bridge is expected by the end of November.

### Abigail Adams House

Ms. Torrey informed members that presentations on the restoration of the Abigail Adams House have been made before the CPC/Community Preservation Committee in a request for funding. At this point the bidders have been narrowed down to (2) two contractors. The restoration work is expected to take place over the winter months.

Chairman Walker asked if she felt the Abigail Adams House would be open for visitors by the Spring and she responded that at this point she did not know.

It was noted that a lot of beam work needs to be addressed in the basement.

Ms. Torrey wanted to clarify that the Abigail Adams Committee is a 'working' committee, but she is not part of that.

It was also noted that they are working on a Variance for 'handicapped accessibility' - this is because the small size of the doors in this historical house would not accommodate wheelchairs, etc. Further Chris Hannon (a professor who is on board now) is looking into videos for those historical structures without accessibility. It was noted that the AA House has only one egress - and one set of stairs (not handicapped accessible). It was felt that this was a good opportunity, because it is forcing them to look at new way to present themselves. Presently they are looking at Lincoln cottage in Washington, DC and the Tenement Museum in New York City for ideas.

### Wessagusset Wetlands & Woodlands Update

Berj Kailian has made a sizeable contribution toward the Wessagusset Wetlands & Woodlands Gardens.

When asked if there would be signage there, Ms. Purdy-Quinlan replied 'no' - although it was suggested they might consider using the big tree located on site for this purpose. She said she has spoken to the arborist about the trees there.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan went on to say that she visited the Center for the Arts in Fall River where they had a Lego's display - and she also discovered a woman weaver there using natural dyes, some made from black walnut ink. She went on to inform members that after the recent hurricane they collected about 300 black walnuts at the garden. She explained that they are very valuable as they can be used as an ingredient for candies/ice cream. She then explained the procedure used to make the ink.

### Announcements re. Historical Plaques

Ms. Lehrer announced that she and Jim Clarke thought it would be a good idea to promote the historical house plaques for the holiday season. She reported that Rita Lounge in her office helped to create a list of homes (property owners) located in Meeting House and Front Street historical districts. The people will be sent form letters strongly urging their participation in the program. The letter outlines the process to apply for a plaque (including a picture of a sample plaque at a price of \$70), the criteria to qualify, and will include an application.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan asked about including the historical homes in Central Square on the list and Ms. Lehrer replied that they could address those homes at a later date.

Ms. Lehrer also noted that property owners with non-contributing property could also be eligible. She then took a moment to read a sample letter for the Board's approval.

Chairman Walker asked if she knew how many homes they were talking about.

Ms. Lehrer responded that there were (12) in the Meeting House district and about (80) in the Front Street district - acknowledging that they would also be addressing the qualifying those in the Central Square historical district.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan asked if the Bicknell Square Historical District had been finalized and Ms. Lehrer replied 'yes'.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan moved to approve the historical house plaque form letter/applications for qualifying property owners in the Meeting House, Front Street and the Central Square historical districts, as read by Ms. Lehrer.

Ms. Dorey seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

### Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next regularly scheduled monthly meeting for the Weymouth Historical Commission and the public hearing for an Application for Demolition Permit for 100 Oak Street would be held on Thursday, December 1, 2011 beginning at 7 PM. The public hearing would be held first, followed by the regular monthly meeting.

### Other Business

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan said it saddened her to hear that the house on Middle Street was torn down, with Chairman Walker commenting that it was ready to fall down.

Ms. Lehrer told members that they have 7 days from the date of the public hearing to make a decision re. 100 Oak Street - or if the members chose they could make it at the meeting.

### Civil War Lecture Series Update

Ms. Torrey commented that the Civil War lecture speakers, including the Commission members, did a very nice job with the lecture series, and she also wanted to acknowledge Ms. Dorey's efforts as well as new member Rodney Lundin.

### New Member Rodney Lundin

Mr. Lundin was asked to tell a little about his background. He told members that he attended Weymouth Vocational Technical High School and graduated in 1967, has a post grad degree in structural design (1969) and is presently a self-employed contractor with a Mass. License. He has had historical involvement in the Town for many years - and has always been interested in Weymouth's history. He reported that he was brought up in a historical home (his Mom's house). The house is located 189 Sea Street and is known as the Captain David Blanchard House, built in 1790. Additionally he has a deep interest in the Civil War and belongs to an organization that reenacts aspects of the Civil War. Further he has been collecting Civil War memorabilia for over 20 years. Lastly he has competed in Civil War shootouts and travels to Virginia twice a year to participate in re-enactments and competitions.

When asked if he had a Civil War uniform, Mr. Lundin confirmed that he did.

Mr. Lundin was supportive of portraying "Living History" scenarios for the public, adding he did one in Easton. He also referred to another that was held in Cambridge with over 4,000 people in attendance. He added that they are usually held on weekends.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan commented that he also participated in one that recognized the Town's 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary held at the Air Base.

Mr. Lundin informed the Commission that he is in contact with various re-enactment groups. He told members if they were interested in holding one next Spring in Weymouth they would need to start planning in the Winter. He explained that those that participate in the "Living History" create a campsite as part of the re-enactment, commenting that they did one in Easton and the ladies also included a fashion show.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan asked if he could bring some information to the next meeting.

Mr. Lundin told members that he has contacts re. the '12<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts (Easton and Bridgewater).

Ms. Dorey felt it was something for the Commission to consider.

Chairman Walker said he would also like to get Jim Clarke involved.

Mr. Lundin added that usually the Town/community helps out with various expenses/items; such as, hay (for the horses), water, firewood, porta potties, etc.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan asked if vendors participate.

Mr. Lundin replied 'not usually', but added they do sell Civil War clothing.

Chairman Walker suggested they discuss this subject again at their next meeting.

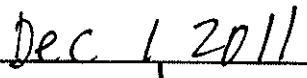
Adjournment

Ms. Torrey moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 PM.

Ms. Dorey seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

  
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Ed Walker, Chairman, WHC

  
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Date

Respectfully submitted,

Susan DeChristoforo  
Recording Secretary