

WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL COMMISSION
February 10th, 2009 Meeting
Francis Kelly Room/Weymouth Town Hall

PRESENT: Ted Clarke/Chairman, Ed Walker, Mary Dorey, Steve Puleo and Joan Rotundo

ALSO PRESENT: Jody Lehrer

I. Chairman

Chairman Clarke called the February 10th, 2009 meeting of the Weymouth Historical Commission to order at 7:04 PM.

II. Minutes

Ms. Dory moved to approve the minutes of the 1/8/2009 meeting as amended.

Mr. Walker seconded.

Unanimously Voted

III. Reports

Town Liaison - Jody Lehrer

43 Bicknell Street Survey Status

Ms. Lehrer reported that she had received an email from Barbara Donahue regarding 43 Bicknell Street. At this point she is waiting for the final report from Russ, who has been assisting with the Survey. Plans are to interview Mr. Adams in March and it is expected that the report would be complete by the end of March.

Designee to the Cemetery Committee

Ms. Lehrer then noted that she has a letter for Chairman Clarke' signature, which appoints member Joan Rotundo as the Commission's designee to the Cemetery Committee (replacing Richard Pattison).

i. Fogg Library

Next Ms. Lehrer informed members that there would be a Joint Meeting of the Fogg Library Reuse Committee on March 3rd at 7 PM at the South Shore Savings Bank located in Columbian Square/Pleasant Street, South Weymouth. The agenda includes a presentation by the architects who will also be thereto answer any questions anyone might have.

Chairman Clarke asked who was expected to be in attendance for the presentation - and suggested that the members might want to consider holding their March meeting there at that time instead of March 10th - so that they could hear the presentation and participate in any discussion on the work that is being proposed.

Members agreed to attend this meeting in place of their own March meeting.

ii. Advisories of Upcoming Events

Ms. Lehrer then spoke about the two cemeteries that were being studied: Reed Cemetery and the Wood Cemetery. She said that Dave Wachovia was involved in the work. Present plans are to apply for funding through the Community Preservation Act/Committee for the purpose of cleaning/restoring them. The cost is expected to be \$25,000 per quarter (every 3 months). The application will be submitted shortly for this funding.

III. Other Reports

Clapp Memorial - Zoning Update

Ms. Lehrer informed members that there would be a change submitted to the State re. "4OR" (Overlay Zoning District). Then once the 4OR/District is approved by the State, it will then go before the Town Council for their approval. The Clapp project calls for the conversion of the building to 38 residential units. This would be a reduction from the previous proposal - and would allow for additional density development needed to qualify for funding from the state.

Chairman Clarke asked if some would be designated 'affordable' units and Ms. Lehrer said she thought so, but would check further and get back to the Commission.

Mr. Walker asked if the Church still owned the property and Ms. Lehrer said she wasn't sure.

Mr. Walker then said he would like to get some pictures of the building as it stands now before any renovation work takes place.

Ms. Lehrer suggested he speak with Planning Department staff person Bob Longo about it.

Mr. Walker added that he would also want to check to find out if there were any historical artifacts in the building, possibly in the attic. If so he would like to pursue the Town's ownership of them.

Ms. Lehrer again stated that Mr. Longo would be his contact person.

Route 18 Environmental Assessment

Ms. Lehrer told members that the Assessment has been received by the Town and they have until Mid-March to comment. She noted that copies of the Assessment were also available for viewing at the Town Libraries and the Planning Office, adding that it involved (3) Route 18/Main Street intersections; i. e., Middle/West Streets, Park Street and Pleasant Street.

Mr. Walker said he was still waiting to hear about one plaque that had been removed, adding that he spoke with Jim Clarke about it and he hadn't heard anything more. He reminded members that they wanted the plaque put back.

Sea Street

Ms. Lehrer said that she is still waiting to hear from the Massachusetts Historical Commission, adding that they have been checking on the status of Sea Street regarding the nomination for over a year.

b. Other Reports

Canoe

Mr. Walker said he was happy to report that finally there has been some progress re. ventilating the room storing the canoe. At this point they have installed the compressor in the Tufts Library Boiler Room. The only thing left to do is to install the unit for the Canoe Case. Plans are to have Phil Smith go there with his nephew and install the (small) ventilation unit on the Canoe Case Friday AM (2/14). Plans also call for running lines from the piping to the top of the case (the Town Electrician will be running the lines to the unit).

IV: New Business

Chairman Clarke asked if Mr. Walker was involved with the contents of the glass case on the Town Hall staircase and he replied that he was, adding that he was working on them with Jody Purdy-Quinlan.

Chairman Clarke said he thought they were putting the Abigail Adams display back in there, but it was learned that the Abigail Adams Historical Society had taken the items back.

Ms. Lehrer said she would address the topic further with Jim Clarke.

Chairman Clarke told members that he was creating a video, with one of the scenes taking place at Town Hall, adding that he would like to photo the case with its historical artifacts.

Ms. Lehrer said that she would speak with Jim Clarke about some ideas for the case.

Chairman Clarke suggested doing something on the Town's Fire Department.

Mr. Walker interjected that they have sold all of Richard Pattison's Fire Department Historical DVD's.

Ms. Lehrer informed members that they still have some left in the Planning Office and they will post this information on the Town's website. She noted that any money received would go to Mrs. Pattison.

Chairman Clarke reported that he had received a query on the Bates House, noting that the gentleman was a shoemaker. He said he referred to the person to the Weymouth Historical Society.

Mr. Walker noted that there was a book available on the History of Shoemaking in Weymouth (Noah Torrey Book).

Future Projects - Discussion

Ms. Rotondo asked if there was an inventory of Weymouth's historical objects in Town Hall.

Mr. Walker suggested she might want to check with the Town Clerk.

In respect to that subject, Ms. Rotondo said she would like to volunteer her services in creating an inventory of items that the Town might have. She said she has heard in the past there were some historical items removed from the Town Hall attic (without any accountability) when the Town Hall was being renovated some years back. This was a concern to committee members. Ms. Rotondo wanted to make sure that there was accountability in the future and that nothing of historical value disappeared.

Mr. Walker spoke about a Gettysburg Flag that disappeared from the Town Hall - one that was presented to the Town by the 12th Regiment.

Chairman Clarke noted that [Massachusetts sent](#) the First Regiment to the defense of Washington.

Mr. Walker pointed out that it was "Webster's Regiment" and that Webster's son was killed in action, adding that his house, which still stands, is located on Pond Street.

Ms. Lehrer said that she will speak to Jim Clarke about Ms. Rotondo's offer to create "Weymouth Inventory of Historical Artifacts".

Ms. Rotondo noted that she was presently working with the Weymouth Historical Society (Holbrook House) on creating a computerized inventory.

Chairman Clarke commented what they really needed was a Town Museum.

Ms. Rotondo spoke about an empty house that could be used for this purpose, suggesting that possibly the Weymouth Historical Society could purchase it.

Chairman Clarke noted that the Town of Braintree had the Watson Museum, but it recently closed. He said that the owner took his collection and moved it to Braintree Historical Society's place. He has been to see it. He also noted that at this point the Braintree Historical Society is almost bankrupt, due to the real estate purchase they made.

New business - Cont'd Discussion

At this point Ms. Dorey showed members a brochure she picked up at a Lincoln Day Event held in the Town of Hingham, adding the cost was \$1.50. She pointed out that each historical property cited is numbered on the map along with a brief description. She suggested the Commission might want to think of creating something similar - possibly by sections/villages.

Ms. Rotondo told members that a few years ago the Weymouth Garden Club held a tour of Jackson and Columbian Squares.

Chairman Clarke noted that Jim Clarke wanted to do an audio tour of Weymouth with him. He took that idea and made it into a video tape. He said if they could get funding he would like to do something similar to the Hingham brochure, adding they do have \$1,700.

Ms. Dorey added that she had a volunteer who would do the computer work.

Ms. Lehrer said she would check further with Mr. Clarke about any available funding.

New Plaque Application - the Blanchard House

Ms. Lehrer informed the Commission that she has received another application for a Historical Plaque for a house located at 58 Church Street, which is listed on the 'Demo Delay' list. The house dates back to 1838 (which met the 100 year criteria). The application has been submitted by owners, Christine Pungchar and Brian Carlic. (Ms. Pungchar was present)

Ms. Lehrer noted that the application form included a lot of information on the house built over 100 years ago. It appeared that the original owner of this property was the Weymouth North Parrish - who then sold the land to James Blanchard in 1833. Some of the materials of the house are original such as the square head nails on the first floor. The architecture is Greek Revival. The new owners have asked for the sign to include the year: 1838 and the name, The Blanchard House.

Mr. Walker moved to accept the Blanchard House with the date of 1838 for a Weymouth Historical plaque.

Mr. Puleo seconded.

Unanimously Voted

V. Adjournment

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

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

It was noted for the record that Mary Dorey has done a 'stellar' job in compiling/updating the homes for Weymouth's Demo Delay List.

Next scheduled meeting is scheduled for 03/03/2009 at the South Shore Savings Bank, South Weymouth - 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan DeChristoforo
Recording Secretary