

WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL COMMISSION
June 21ST, 2007 MEETING
Weymouth Town Hall - Kelly Room

PRESENT: Ted Clarke/Chairman, Vice-Chairman Jody Purdy-Quinlan, Mary Dorey & Richard Pattison

ABSENT: Steve Puleo, Tom Curtis, Ed Walker

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

Chairman

Chairman Ted Clarke called the June 21st, 2007 meeting of the Weymouth Historical Commission to order at 7:10 PM.

Discussion of Proposed Historical Districts

Ms. Lehrer referred to the question by the members at the last meeting - would Betsy Friedberg come out and do another walkthrough? Members wanted Ms. Friedberg to look at and consider including a few more streets to her previously recommended Weymouth Landing/Front Street Historical District. Ms. Friedberg informed Ms. Lehrer that it was advisable to exclude the additional streets from the Weymouth Landing/Front Street proposed district and to consider a separate process for those streets (as a separate proposed district). Ms. Friedberg stated that the streets "on the hills" were different in character (more densely situated and more modest in style) than those in the proposed district.

Mr. Pattison referred to #1, 2, 3, 4 and #8 on the Hill, commenting they are only requesting the Historical District include Granite and Keith Streets - including the private Academy up on the Hill and possibly the high school. He noted there was approximately 15 houses on Front Street eligible for the National Historic Register - and now Commercial Street. He pointed out that when a place burns to the ground it is no longer eligible, and this includes Sacred Heart Church. He said that Greenbush only counted about 5 or 6 homes on Commercial Street and since that time a couple of those houses are gone - as is the bank on the corner. He stated that the area originally went up to Lincoln Square, but now the only thing left on that route is the post office, which is already on the National Register - and he quickly added, Albion Hall. He commented 'there was so much history in the Landing and now the Landing and the Washington Street area are all gone. He recommended they think about putting a book together on the 'old stuff'. He would like to include Front Street - from the Bank to #160 - #163, in that area behind Christian Academy - including a couple of houses on Summer Street. He pointed out that his personal preference would be Weymouth Landing as #1 and the Heights being #2 - which is a very small area. He felt this way the cost would be more acceptable.

Mr. Pattison moved Weymouth Heights to be #1.

Before taking the motion, Chairman Clarke wanted to discuss the member's viewpoints. He noted that the GIS map with the pictures is the area Betsy Friedberg preferred, but quickly added we could include Weymouth Heights.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan asked if he was referring to Front Street and the Heights and Chairman Clarke replied 'yes'.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan wanted to include the School (#120 on the map) and Weston Park, adding if they are going to do anything they should do it right away before any further changes take place.

Mr. Pattison noted that there were also some nice houses on Summer Street.

Chairman Clarke asked if they wanted to include Weston Park, adding that the post office is already eligible.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan replied 'right', but then asked 'is it in the District?'

Chairman Clarke felt they could 'tweak' that, adding that once they vote it does not mean the boundary is 'hard and fast'. He then asked Mr. Pattison if he wanted to include what was on the map and Weymouth Heights?

Mr. Pattison responded that Front Street would be the Weymouth Landing Historical District.

Chairman Clarke told him that they would call it whatever they wanted.

Mr. Pattison said he didn't see it costing more than \$5,000.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan referred to the Weymouth Landing National Register District Proposal for Greenbush - that would include #161, 171, 243, 196, the waterfront up to Washington Street, and would include pictures of the properties of historical value that are not included - which goes over to the Commercial Street properties.

Mr. Pattison referred to the area between the train tracks - Webb Street and the Thayer Place.

Chairman Clarke thought it was too distant, commenting that Betsy sees the areas as four (4) separate districts.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan referred to a house on Front Street - noting that those left on Commercial St. belonged to business owners with the remaining houses belonging to the workers (years ago).

Chairman Clarke told members that this process would be ongoing, but right now he felt they needed to start somewhere.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan commented that originally Greenbush had money for this, now we have \$25,000. She wanted to note that the Historical Commission's requests were never brought to the attention of "Greenbush Mitigation" and she felt this was important to note for the record. She went on to say that 'we as a Commission can be more involved in the process and not ignored.' She said 'when we hire a Preservationist, we need to make sure studies done utilized by both, including Greenbush, and someone should work with them to maximize the cost.

Chairman Clarke said "Let's ask how much would it cost". Then they would respond "that's a little high, we've already done a lot of this work". With regard to work/research needed re. the "Hill", he commented, a volunteer could do it - if necessary one of us.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan added - 'possibly someone who lives in one of those houses; such as, Patricia Sweeney'.

Mr. Pattison noted that Bill Torme', an old-timer, has much of this knowledge - and would be a good interview.

Mr. Pattison moved to proceed with the proposed Weymouth Landing/Front Street Historical District (as amended to include Weston Park and lot #120) as well as with the proposed Abigail Adams Historical District.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan seconded.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

Chairman Clarke told members that they could hold one public hearing for both districts; that is, one for Weymouth Landing and one for Weymouth Heights.

Mr. Pattison asked about the area where they walked.

The Chairman replied that they walked from Church to the Abigail Adams House, commenting that Betsy felt that including the Cemetery would make the area too big.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan added that they drove up Commercial Street, which made her think of creating another district.

In closing Chairman Clarke told members not to be alarmed if they get Betsy Friedberg to come and they call another meeting.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan told members that plans are to celebrate the wedding of Abigail Adams and John Adams this Summer.

Adjournment

Mr. Pattison moved to adjourn at 8:39 PM.

Ms. Purdy-Quinlan seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

Next scheduled meeting 9/11//07 - 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan DeChristoforo
Recording Secretary

Ted Clarke, Chairman

Date