

WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING

DECEMBER 12th, 2006

PRESENT: Ted Clarke/Chairman, Tom Curtis, Mary Dorey, Steve Puleo and Richard Pattison

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

I. Chairman

Chairman Clarke called the December 12th, 2006 meeting of the Weymouth Historical Commission to order at 7:05 PM.

II. Minutes

Chairman Clarke stated that approval of the minutes would be taken up at the next meeting.

III. Reports

Community Preservation Committee

Tom Curtis reported that he met with the President and Vice President of the Weymouth Historical Society and the Abigail Adams Historical Society to discuss approaches they could take to draft a proposal for the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). They all felt if they approached the Committee with a unified front, their proposal would carry more weight. It was also felt they should prioritize the proposed projects. Overall, he felt the meeting went well, with all groups being on the same track now. In summary, it was agreed that they should work together with the Weymouth Historical Commission as a three-group team. Secondly, they spoke about clarifying the submission process and the best way to get the project in front of the CPC.

Tom Curtis stated that after having a conversation with Mr. Stewart Saginaw at the state level he was unclear on the role the WHC played with the proposals that were submitted to the CPC.

Members continued to discuss the appropriate procedure and at this point Tom Curtis read directly from the CPA/rules and regulations. - and continued to seek clarification on their part in the process.

Mr. Pattison asked Jim Clarke 'if someone wants to submit a parcel of land for consideration, does it require the Conservation Commission to make the actual submission?'

Mr. Jim Clarke responded 'no', adding he didn't think that Stewart's viewpoint was accurate, but he would do additional research on this point. He stated that as part of the CPC performing a 'needs assessment', they would consult with the three commissions/boards; i. e., Conservation, Recreation and Historical. Further as projects come before the CPC - in order for a proposal to be categorized as 'historical', the CPC would want the WHC's input. This was his interpretation based on what CPC Chairman, Walter Flynn, stated at the last meeting. He said - for example, if someone made a proposal regarding Sea Street, they wouldn't need to have this Commission review it, because the area has already been acknowledged as a historical site. Another example he cited was the airplane at the South Weymouth Naval Air Base - commenting that since this site is not identified anywhere as being historic, the CPC would then ask the WHC to review the request and send it back to them with their advice and comments.

Jim Clarke emphasized that the CPC would rely strongly on their opinion. He told members that the CPC has previously spoken about the importance of receiving input from Recreation, Conservation and Historical Commission's, but he quickly wanted to point out that this did not mean they would definitely fund the request if recommended.

Chairman Clarke noted that this Commission would decide which projects had historical value.

Mr. Curtis told members that the CPC spoke about prioritizing requests; such as, caretaking Abigail Adams home or 43 Bicknell - if there is more than one submitted. He informed the members that presently the CPC is seeking guidelines.

Jim Clarke told members that they should decide on how they want their CPC designee (Tom Curtis) to operate on the CPC. He suggested they might want him to prioritize historical requests (this would be the same for the Conservation Commission, Planning Board and Housing Authority).

Mr. Puleo commented that he was very impressed by the positive outcome of Mr. Curtis' meeting with the other two Historical Societies.

Mr. Curtis responded that they all have the same goals and objectives and he felt that all were in agreement now.

At this point the approval process was reviewed, which called for the proposal first being submitted to the CPC, once approved it next goes before the Mayor with the last step going before the Town Council for final approval.

Mr. J. Clarke pointed out that the proposal did not have to come back before this committee. With regard to the Needs Assessment - he said it states that those making the proposal should consult with the appropriate Boards/Committees. He went on to say that Planning, Conservation and Historical have been asked to appear before the CPC. Further if a proposal is received (there is none yet), the law states that the CPC must obtain feedback from the appropriate Board/Commission.

Chairman Clarke stated that they could rely on Tom Curtis to bring all pertinent information back to them. With regard to the other two historical groups, he asked 'how should we proceed'.

Mr. Curtis felt they should leave it for now, adding that he felt they now all agree that they should be working from the same sheet of music.

Chairman Clarke felt that when the Abigail Adams project is presented, that is when all three groups should sit down and discuss it.

Mr. J. Clarke referred to the CPC, commenting that their application form is now complete and that the committee just voted on selection criteria within categories. Their agenda from now through January calls for them working on a Needs Assessment, followed by FY08 projects which is scheduled to begin on 2/8/07. At that time they will evaluate any changes to the FY07 projects. Further, they will be looking at FY08 monies/expenditures. At that point their recommendations will be forwarded to Mayor Madden and from there onto the Town Council. At that point they should be caught up in their cycle. He told

members they could expect new public hearings to begin in February, but wanted members to know that there would be other opportunities during the year for them to act on other proposals/requests.

Mr. Curtis told members that all proposals must be submitted to the CPC in detailed written form, preferably on the CPC's newly created form. Presently they have \$1.4 million, 10% designated for the three different categories, including historical projects. He informed the members that if the money is not expended annually, it would be accumulated.

Mr. Pattison asked if the funds for Conservation and Historical projects could be combined and Mr. Curtis replied 'yes', citing as an example 'recreation and open space'. Mr. Curtis further explained that in addition to the 10% for each group, 5% is set aside for administrative costs. Lastly he stated that although the state did not match FY06 monies, they did for FY07.

Next members discussed the timing/availability of funds.

Mr. J. Clarke told members he would check on the availability of funds, commenting he felt matching state funds were received each October.

At this point Mr. Pattison informed members that the Historical Society is holding their Christmas Open House Saturday, December 16th from 12 Noon to 4 PM and he felt it would be nice if members made an effort to attend.

1. Letter of Intent - Survey & Planning Grant

Next Jody Lehrer distributed a copy of the Town of Weymouth Project #1/Weymouth Landing Historical District Nomination Grant.

Ms. Lehrer then referred to Page 2, noting that the Narrative was one page long as requested. She said she worked on completion of the grant with Jim Clarke. She felt the grant including the narrative was well thought out and took a comprehensive approach. She said that she utilized the information in the Mitigation Report and included the GIS map. She noted that the area/plan encompasses the same boundaries as in the Mitigation report, including Commercial Street, part of Front and Broad Street and up to Weston Park.

Chairman Clarke asked why Weston Park wasn't included and Jim Clarke replied that they would include that, commenting that was a good point. He said that this plan is greater than what was in '106'.

Mr. Pattison asked if the information was based on the '89 Presentation Plan' and Jim Clarke said he was pretty sure that it was, but would verify this information after checking further.

Ms. Dorey noted that it didn't seem to include the downtown area of Weymouth Landing and Jim Clarke acknowledged that she was right and this would be corrected (including the buildings). It was noted that the building on the corner as well as the one where Kennedy's had been included - as this was part of the 1930's and 1940's architecture.

J. Clarke felt the boundary should extend to the Braintree line (for the preliminary plan). Ted Clarke asked if any of the members had additional information on the Landing, to please let him know so he could include it in the article he is drafting.

Members then discussed the cost and it was agreed that the funding request would be reduced. Wendy Frontierio will be contacted on the best number to use. It was noted that the cost of Sea Street is between \$15,000-\$20,000 - based on that number, members felt the Landing figure would be more realistic in the \$35,000-\$40,000 range.

Mr. J. Clarke told members that he would like to revise both funding requests as follows: \$15,000 for Weymouth Heights and \$35,000-\$40,000 for Weymouth Landing - and at that point break out the 60%/40%.

Mr. Pattison moved to submit the funding request for Weymouth Heights at \$15,000 and the funding request for Weymouth Landing for \$35,000/\$40,000.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

Mr. Pattison commented that he felt in the long run the area would eventually be called the Abigail Adams Historical District, which he and the members felt would help in the request for funding. He said he was also hoping to get a sign that says "Adams Square".

Mr. J. Clarke said he would be revising the grant application based on previous comments and at that time he would change the name from Weymouth Heights to read "Weymouth Heights d/b/a Abigail Adams District". He told members that all revisions would be done as discussed with the grant application submitted by Friday, December 15th.

Chairman Clarke noted that February 21st, 2007 is the deadline for the actual project.

Ms. Lehrer clarified that what he was referring to was actually a different grant, with Chairman Clarke adding that they were talking about an additional grant regarding the Fogg Library.

2. Associate Member

Mr. J. Clarke stated that he had nothing to report at this time with regard to the status of the Associate Member, but that he would be checking with Mayor Madden on it and report back to them.

3. 660 Middle Street

Mr. J. Clarke next reported that they received information from the architect on 660 Middle Street and that the Sarah Chase Consultants did a walk-through. The assessment was that it was an early 1700's building. The architect commented on the hearth and basement being more high-style Federal. Additionally, they have received the cost on moving the building. He also met with Mayor Madden and reviewed the proposal and at this time is waiting to hear back from him. He went on to say, if approved, they are proposing to use HOME money to move the house to the site of the old Town Hall. If this doesn't happen, he said there are other avenues they could pursue. He said that he will keep the Chairman updated, adding that whatever the outcome they would like to have an archeological evaluation done. He reaffirmed that their goal was to save/move the house.

Mr. Pattison spoke about other historical sites in the area of the old Town Hall - one being the first priest's house, another being the original Pratt School - as well as it being the site of the battle with the Indians.

3. Sea Street Update

Mr. J. Clarke reported that they are doing a black/white photograph, noting there was a demand for it. He expected to have an update for them by the end of the year. He commented that he found it to be an interesting process, although it has been somewhat time consuming (one year so far).

C. Additional Reports

Greenbush Update

Mr. J. Clarke met with some of the committee members and they looked at the North Street Bridge. Additionally, they looked at granite samples, adding they are considering use of multi colors for the panels. He said their objective is to have it blend in. He told members that Green Street would have four (4) granite columns, adding that he was pleased with the product/look.

Mr. Pattison asked if they could remove the dead pine tree.

In closing, Mr. J. Clarke stated that a lot of work had been done at the Abigail Adams Green, including ripping up walkways, cleaning the area and replacing greenery/shrubs.

IV. Other Business

A. Unfinished - House Signs for Sea Street, Etc.

Mr. Pattison suggested they estimate the cost of the signs for Sea Street.

Mr. J. Clarke recommended they speak with Weymouth Voc Tech first about partnering with them on the sign design. Additionally, they may want to discuss having the homeowners pay for the materials with the students responsible for the labor.

Ms. Dorey presented a sample sign (12" x 9") she had with her. She told members that she spoke with Joe Canova at Voc Tech about the signs and it was agreed that they would need to come up with the money for the materials, but he told her he was more than willing for the students to do the project once he received the sample, materials, dimensions. He told her the Art Dept. could do the printing.

Mr. Puleo noted that the letters would need to be large enough to be easily read.

Ms. Dorey asked about the format they would like to use - asking would they include the words 'Circa', etc.

Chairman Clarke said that they would first need to know the cost.

It was agreed that Ms. Dory and Ms. Lehrer would work on it.

Mr. J. Clarke offered to speak with Mass. Historical Society about samples, with Mr. Pattison interjecting that the MHS has some signage samples on their website.

It was agreed that once the form is established a protocol would be set-up.

Ms. Dorey felt now was the time for the Schools to do it - as wintertime is the best time for inside work.

Mr. J. Clarke said he would put together a proposal for their January meeting.

Ed Walker Status

Chairman Clarke pointed out Mr. Walker has not attended a meeting for several years and he would like to find out his status as a member, with the possibility that he would volunteer to step down.

Mr. Pattison stated that Mr. Walker would like to become an Associate Member.

Mr. J. Clarke will get back to the members on the status of the Associate Member after speaking with the Mayor.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pattison moved to adjourn at 8:07 PM.

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Respectfully submitted,
Susan DeChristoforo
Recording Secretary

Approved:

Ted Clarke, Chairman