

Braintree Historical Commission
Minutes
Monday, February 1, 2016
Johnson Chambers – Braintree Town Hall

Present: Elizabeth Mees (Chair) Kate Nedelman-Herbst
Ron Frazier Al Varraso

Absent: Paul Carr

Also Present: Christine Stickney, Director of Planning and Community Development

Meeting convened at 7:05 PM

New Business:

Chairman Mees reported that the Planning/Community Development received notice the Mayor would not be attending tonight's meeting due to his need to be at the School Committee meeting. Staff was asked to work with assistance on a future date to reschedule an appointment with him for the March meeting.

Elm Street Cemetery – Chairman Mees provided an update of her interaction with the Chairman of the CPC (Ms. Raiss) as to a future application for the repointing of the existing stone perimeter wall and the need for replacement, preservation and/or restoration of the existing fence around the entire perimeter of the cemetery. She and Ms. Raiss both feel with all the stone work that the wall and fence should be addressed as a next phase of the whole cemetery project. Ms. Raiss has put a CPA application together outlining the proposed scope of work and has obtained three estimates from firms that specialize in this type of work to understand the possible overall cost involved. There are still questions outstanding as to the property line and how work would be performed on the exterior portions of the walls that are not on town property, need for additional lighting and security that all will need to be addressed. Christine also discussed with the Commission if they felt the fence should be replaced with authentic materials or if substitutions could be a consideration for cost effectiveness – members supported use of the authentic materials. The Chairman also discussed a concern the CPA Chair had relative to a past vote taken for the stone project and if it was meant for the entire cemetery or just the stones. In effort to be clear on the matter Ron Frazier **MOTION** that the Braintree Historical Commission finds that the Elm Street Cemetery and any work associated with its preservation and restoration to be historically significant, seconded by Kate Nedelman Herbst – unanimously voted (4:0)

Capital Budget Update – Christine reported that last month the Town Council approved the Mayor’s capital budget request that included funding for cost estimating on the ADA green mall connection between the Town Hall and Old Thayer Library was approved.

Local Historic Districts - No new activity to report.

Section 106 Requests from EBI Consulting: - Two correspondences for comments from EBI on the MBTA’s Positive Control Wayside Poles and Infrastructure Program were discussed. The first letter had two locations on the Kingston/Plymouth Line – members reviewed the locations described in the letter and found there was no historical significance or need to comment. The second letter from EBI provided two locations along the Greenbush line and the BHC found there was no historical significance or need to comment. Staff was directed to let EBI know

Old Business:

Updates - Staff had no new information on items listed on the agenda with the exception of the Union School. Christine provided a draft of the RFQ/RFP Historical Assessment that is scheduled for release on 2/10 for solicitations. Members were asked to review and comment back on anything of concern before next week.

Minutes were table to the next meeting.

Kate Nedelman Herbst **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Al Varrasso – unanimously voted

Meeting adjourned at 7:40PM

Respectfully Submitted

Christine Stickney, Director
Planning and Community Development