

Braintree Historical Commission
Minutes
Monday, March 29, 2016
Johnson Chambers – Braintree Town Hall

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

Also Present: Mayor Joseph C. Sullivan
Christine Stickney, Director of Planning and Community Development

Meeting convened at 7:03 PM

Demolition Delay Ordinance - Chair Elizabeth Mees welcomed Mayor Sullivan and thanked him for attending. Mayor Sullivan discussed the proposed Demolition Delay Bylaw provided to the members tonight as a starting point that Carolyn Murray had drafted. Discussion on the time for delay and the pros and cons of 6 or 12 months was discussed and members agreed to discuss with Council. Mayor Sullivan would like to have it sent to Council on 4/5 for referral to committee.

Old Thayer and Town Hall ADA project – Mayor Sullivan commented that he likes the concept plan and had instructed Christine Stickney to seek an estimated cost for the project. Paul Carr noted the BHC vote to support the project was not unanimous vote that he had voted against it. Paul prefers an elevator and said the concept has a big impact on the parking lot, need to keep grounds separate and the moving of the post office box is a major inconvenience. Elizabeth Mees commented the connection provides for an incline walkway with less maintenance needed and benefits all of the general public. Christine Stickney added that it also prevents the cut through vehicle traffic in the parking lot and in those instances such as the farmer’s market it provides for a separation of the pedestrians and vehicles. Paul Carr added it is a lot easier to put an elevator in and he noted the off-centered keystone above the rear windows that needs to be addressed with any construction. Paul added that he thinks the mezzanine should remain for interior roof work and painting will be easier then tear down. Christine added that engineering is currently doing some spot grades inside each building and through the parking lot to see if feasible.

Elm Street Cemetery – Elizabeth Mees noted that 374 headstones have been restored and recently she and Linda Raiss have been working on an application for the restoration of the perimeter wall and fence. She noted there has been severe damage to the capital columns at the east front side of the cemetery. The Council hopefully will approve – there is also the issue of the maintenance – mowing and lighting.

Historic Districts – Discussion turned to the BHC wanting to have additional inventories done for a possible second historic district. The Mayor suggested the Landing however Christine commented that there is not much of historic significance in the Landing and given our current economic efforts – we may want to consider a different location. The issue of the Gallivan House included was discussed and the members reminded the Mayor it made it to his office for the Town Council but went no further. He noted that Christine McIntyre is now working with the Historical Society to help with different issues.

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Members discussed the past as to the Thayer and the Performing Art Center and the need to do something with the Thayer retirement house before a land sale.

Mayor Sullivan left the meeting at 7:55pm – members thanked him for attending.

Other matters:

Members agreed to review the demolition delay ordinance and send any comments to Christine for transmitting to the Mayor’s office for revisions before the Council receives.

Members agreed to cancel the June 4th meeting.

Kate Herbst Nedelman MOTION to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ron Frazier – unanimous
Meeting adjourned at 8:10PM

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Stickney, Director
Planning and Community Development