

Braintree Historical Commission
Minutes
Monday, September 12, 2016
Johnson Chambers – Braintree Town Hall

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

Also Present: Richard Curry – resident
 Christine Stickney, Director of Planning and Community Development

Meeting convened at 7:08 PM

NHPA Section 106 Review – 1075 Washington Street (South Congregational Church) – Members reviewed a letter dated 7/26/16 from EBI Consulting relative to comments for the installation of a telecommunication antennas within the steeple of the church and a GPS antenna mounted to the southeast side of the steeple. Staff noted that although not within the Town’s local historic district it is one of the older and historically significant structures in the Town. Elizabeth Mees noted there is not much the historical commission can say – the equipment will be inside the steeple however she was agreeable with staff that every effort to “hide” the GPS antenna from the street should be made. Ron Frazier concurred noting it is one of the most historically recognizable structures in the Town and every effort should be made to maintain it. Staff will send an email to the consultants encouraging the GPS antenna to be hidden the best they can do from the view from the streets.

Updates:

Old Thayer Library – Phase III – no update provided.

John Adams Park – Christine noted that it has been completed and that it ran over budget about \$4,500 which they have returned to the CPC to seek additional funding. The matter is to be discussed before the CPC next week. Ron Frazier added that it is the principle of the funding that projects provide a budget and should keep to it and not overspend.

Elm Street Cemetery – Christine reported the solicitation resulted in four proposals from Building Conservation Associates, Boston Survey Consultants, CBI Consulting and McGinley Kalsow & Associates. There is a designer selection committee that is reviewing each of the proposals individually and then as a group to rank them for recommendation to the Mayor. He will then be the party to negotiate the fee for the project. Staff will keep the committee informed on the progress.

Demolition Delay Bylaw – Kate Nedelman Herbst discussed the last time members met with the Council subcommittee on Ordinances and their conversation. Councilor Clifford had asked members about finding out how many homes could potentially be affected by this bylaw – Kate commented that it is financially impracticable and it should not target properties – members asked Christine to contact the Town Council Clerk to explain this again and ask that they move forward on the taking action. Christine will also check with Lisa Maki as to have her look at the bylaw.

Gallivan House – no update

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Union School Historical Assessment – Christine reported the consultant has been chosen and a funding request is before the Town Council – Order #16-045 – it is to be heard on 9/20/16 at Ways and Means and then the full Council.

Member Vacancy – Christine reported that some residents have expressed an interest and they have contacted the Mayor’s office.

Minutes of 7/11/16 were tabled until the next meeting on October 3, 2016

Other:

Mr. Richard Curry spoke to the committee about attending the meeting – he is interested in the properties across the street – Gallivan House and the old General Thayer House and wanted to know what the intentions were for them. The Chair explained they are owned and maintained by the Braintree Historical Society (BHS) and not the Town – that this group is a town board not the society. Mr. Curry provided some of his background and interest in the properties he will be reaching out to BHS.

Kate Nedelman-Herbst **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ron Frazier – Unanimously voted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Stickney, Director
Planning and Community Development