

**Braintree Historical Commission**  
Minutes

September 30, 2009  
Thayer Public Library

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

Absent: Ron Frazier (V-Chair)

Also present: Christine Stickney, Director of Planning & Community Development

Site visit at 6:30PM – Members met at the former Thayer Library at 2 JFK Memorial Drive for a walk through of the building returned to Thayer Library for meeting.

Meeting convened at 7:15 PM

Administrative Matters:

Mr. Varraso **MOTION** to accept the minutes of 9/16/09, seconded by Ms. Nedelman Herbst – unanimously voted. Christine Stickney updated members on the progress of the Elm Street Cemetery solicitation for quotes that was posted on the Historic Preservation list serve. Members reviewed an email from Martha Lyons interested in responding to the quote requesting additional information needed. Quotes are due in on October 2, 2009 – members will discuss at a future meeting.

Ms. Mees reported on her attendance at the MHC workshop held in Wareham on Demolition Delay bylaws. She handed out notes to members of highlights from the meeting. She noted that at the meeting she met members of the newly established Holbrook Historic Commission who are interested also in having Chris Skelley do a joint workshop for new members. It was agreed to wait until after the holidays and do in the upcoming 2010. Members discussed the “negativity” surrounding the bylaw being called “Demolition Delay” and suggested alternative titles such as “sustainable review” should be considered as part of the process for acceptance. Ms. Mees noted the success of other communities (ie: Weymouth) and the extensive amount of preparation and public relation work need to accomplish passage of a bylaw. Ms. Nedelman Herbst noted she has been looking through other Town’s bylaws and the model bylaw on the MHC website for forming a bylaw for Braintree. A draft of a proposal may be ready for committee review at one of our upcoming meetings. Ms. Nedelman Herbst noted that bylaw should be reasonable in its approach as to the delay aspect – she suggested 6 months may be more acceptable to the community. It was agreed to work on this for later promoting later in the year.

Discussion Items:

Dr. Gallivan’s House and the issue of inclusion into the Local Historic District. Christine Stickney provided members with a memo from the Town Clerk detailing the history of why the Attorney General disapproved the Town Meeting action. Christine Stickney

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provided members with a brief synopsis of the process for including the property in the district and agreed to forward in writing the process to members for review. Members agreed to begin the process again and get the property listed in the district.

Old Thayer Library:

Christine Stickney reported that the Cahill Auditorium is reserved for Wednesday, October 21, 2009 – it will be on cable and the Mayor has agreed to make some opening remarks. The office will be letting the media know of the event and contacting our legislators including Congressman Lynch. Mr. Carr questioned if we should have a consensus on the use of the building? Ms. Nedelman Herbst suggested that we have discussed a few specific ideas (i.e.: meeting rooms, visitors center etc.) but we should continue with the generic community space and listen to what the public may have for ideas on the 21<sup>st</sup>. The discussion turned to the small space of the building and the potentially large expenditure of money to refurbish. Ms. Mees asked about how the Town Hall is used currently – members cited sports sign –ups, blood drives, flu shots, retirements etc. Ms. Mees noted it would be nice if there could be a revenue generating aspect for maintaining the building – she cited examples where the grounds around buildings are used for functions. A brief discussion ensued as to the third phase of the Mall project for the area in front of the building. Christine Stickney noted the office has those plans she will bring them to a future meeting for members to view. Ms. Mees briefly outline a schedule – opening remarks with introductions – Mayor and Reps – a brief history of the building – discussion with the public possible uses. Ms. Mees suggested another meeting is needed before the 21<sup>st</sup> – members agreed to meet on Monday – October 19<sup>th</sup> for the final preparation for the 21<sup>st</sup> – they asked Christine to contact Mayor Sullivan to see if he could stop by this meeting.

Mr. Varasso **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Nedelman Herbst – unanimously voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Stickney, Director  
Planning and Community Development