

Braintree Historical Commission

Minutes

March 1, 2010

Thayer Public Library

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

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

Meeting convened at 7:00 PM

Minutes:

Ron Frazier recommended two minor changes – members agreed to changes
Al Varraso **MOTION** to accept the minutes of 2/1/10 as amended, seconded by Kate
Nedelman Herbst – unanimously voted.

All Souls Church discussion:

Present for the discussion from All Souls were Rev. Meredith U. Anderson, Marjorie Kearns, June Phillips, Kathy Pearce and Rev. Steven M. Wilson. Ms. Kearns explained that the church is trying to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Ms. Kearns obtained an application from Mass Historical Commission (MHC) to be considered but is seeking assistance on what needs to be done for acceptance. She provided members with a “Form B Building Inventory Form #234” she obtained from MHC that concludes the church should be eligible for the National Register and be placed under criteria A and C at the local level. Ron Frazier explained when and how the inventory form was completed but members were not familiar with criteria A and C – further research is needed. Ms. Kearns also provided a list of the activities that occur within church, a brief history of the architect Edward J. Lewis and some antidotal information about famous parishioners over the years. Ron Frazier suggested they pursue the completion of the application to MHC and Paul Carr offered the resources at the Braintree Historical Society if members want to visit their library. Elizabeth Mees suggested the Church complete the MHC form provided it the BHC and they will review it and sign off on it so it can be submitted to MHC to get the process moving. Church members thanked the Commission and agreed to return at a later date.

Sustainable Review ordinance:

Mayor Sullivan was expected to attend the meeting for a discussion but at the last minute had to cancel his attendance. Members were provided with the latest revision dated 2/1/10 that resulted from comments from a prior meeting. Christine provided members with questions Mayor Sullivan had asked earlier in the day relative to the age of the structures, a town wide ordinance and what happens when a portion of the house is to be demolished? Ron Frazier noted that MHC considers anything over 50 years old to be significant and should be at a minimum documented. He stressed the importance of documentation as a outcome of the ordinance rather than a prohibition of demolishing a

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building. Elizabeth Mees questioned if there should be a more descriptive “purpose and intent” that would explain the proposed ordinance better – Kate Nedelman Herbst agreed to look at the language. Kate concurred that the benefit of the bylaw is the preserving of knowledge from our history. Ron Frazier noted the surrounding Towns to Braintree all have a similar bylaw and/or ordinance. Members agreed to postpone their meeting with the Planning Board and asked that Mayor Sullivan be invited to attend their next meeting – April 5th for discussion on the proposed ordinance. Members requested it be asked for discussion on the May 11th Planning Board meeting. Members felt it is important the Mayor understand the purpose and intent behind the acceptance of this ordinance.

Christine noted there were two areas highlighted that needed clarification? Members reviewed and discussed and agreed that they should be incorporated into the working document. Kate will make further revisions and amendments as is necessary.

Old Thayer Library RFQ/RFP Update:

Members reviewed the most current list of firms that have requested the RFQ/RFP and those that attended the pre-submission meeting. Members noted the different firms that attended the meeting. Elizabeth recalled some of the questions and comments asked about the building and one particular concern as to the available funding. She provided information on how the RFQ/RFP can be amended that may address the issue. Christine will try and distribute this to the firms tomorrow. The deadline is March 10th and we may need to see what comes of the request.

Local Historic District/Gallivan House:

Christine provided the members with working drafts of a new district that would include the Gallivan house and the adjacent town owned park land. Ron Frazier and Paul Carr commented that they believe the park land is part of the district. Christine reported that the available town records indicate it is not and asked if they know of some other documentation if they could provide it because Town records are not complete. It was agreed that although there may be a question with the parcel, it would be best to include it now and address the issue with this revision. Christine explained the time consuming tasks needed to be done before it can be sent to MHC, she will work on it as time allows. Christine questioned if she should ask the only residence on the block not within the district if they want to be included – members agreed you could ask but they anticipate from past discussions there will not be an interest.

Ron Frazier **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kate Nedelman Herbst – unanimously voted. Next meeting is April 5, 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM
Respectfully submitted,

Christine Stickney, Director of Planning and Community Development