

**Braintree Historical Commission**

Minutes

**November 1, 2010**

Thayer Public Library

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

Absent: Al Varraso

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

Meeting convened at 7:10 PM

Upcoming Regional Meeting – January 24, 2011 (7PM) Cahill Auditorium

Members discussed notifying Historical Commissions and Societies in the neighboring communities to invite them to attend. Christine was asked to contact Chris Skelly at MHC to get an idea of the program he would be presenting. A general invitation should also go out on the historic list serve closer to the date. Elizabeth Mees noted the first presentation should be about Local Historic Commissions – roles and responsibilities and then later in the year there would be one on demolition delay/sustainable development either in Braintree or another location. Kate Needleman Herbst also suggested we should organize something in the beginning of 2011 for the Elm Street Cemetery for a public presentation. Christine will report back at the next meeting.

Town Clerk Archived Preservation Project (CPA):

Members were provided with a copy of the CPA request and handout describing the project. Due to the election on 11/2, Joe Powers was unable to attend but agreed to attend on 12/6 if questions arose. Christine provided a brief summary of the project as presented by Joe Powers to the CPA. Ron Frazier questioned the current year's vital records and how they can be made available due to privacy issues and can they be considered "historically significant". Paul Carr mentioned there are a number of items within the vault of historical significance and would like to discuss displaying them for the public. Members agreed they would like to meet with Town Clerk and asked staff to invite him to the 12/6 meeting.

Braintree Mural and Historic Map Preservation Projects:

Paul Carr explained that in his meeting with the CPA it came up that there should be a formal vote of "historic significance" relative to these two projects had been overlooked. Christine acknowledged that this has been done in the past for structures but had been an oversight with these types of projects and they had been discussed in past historical commission meetings but not voted. Paul Carr **MOTION** to recommend to the Community Preservation Committee that the East Braintree Mural is of "historical significance" and should be funded as a historic project under the Community Preservation Act, seconded by Kate Nedelman Herbst – unanimously voted. Kate Nedelman Herbst **MOTION** to recommend to the Community Preservation Committee that the Historic Map project is of "historical significance" and should be funded as a historic project under the Community Preservation Act, seconded by Ron Frazier – Unanimously voted.

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Old Thayer Library Update:

Christine discussed with members the two refined estimate proposals from MacLeod Consulting and Aberjona Engineering that members had asked for a breakdown at the last meeting. Reviewing the breakdown and final estimates – Aberjona provide a total estimate of \$5200 and MacLeod Consulting \$6160. Kate Nedelman Herbst **MOTION** to work with Aberjona based on the estimate provided, seconded by Paul Carr – unanimously voted. Discussion turned to the condition of the masonry walls and concerns Elizabeth Mees had witness that she felt a structural engineer review was warranted. Elizabeth Mees also asked when the next meeting with Bargman + Hendrie Associates is scheduled we should be getting an updated as to the results of their findings, cost prioritization and cost estimate.

Reorganization of Commission:

Elizabeth Mees had asked for this to be on the agenda for discussion. Having served for over a year as Chair, Elizabeth wanted members to feel free to consider reorganization if there was a member that wanted to serve in a different capacity. Ron Frazier expressed his opinion that things are working well and given our biggest project involves Old Thayer Library, he would prefer she stay as chair. Both Paul Carr and Kate Nedelman Herbst expressed their support for Elizabeth to remain as chair.

Other:

Ron Frazier noted he was ready to attend the last CPA meeting and Christine apologized for not having the matter on the agenda regarding the historic inventory request – she will have it on their November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Christine will also check with Al Varraso to see if he can attend the CPA meeting regarding the American Legion building.

Administrative:

No minutes were available

Members set their 2011 schedule of meetings for the following dates: 1/3, 2/7, 3/7, 4/4, 5/2, 6/6 (summer to TBA) 9/12, 10/3, 11/7 and 12/5/2011. Also members were reminded to put 1/24/11 special meeting on their calendars.

Paul Carr **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kate Nedelman Herbst – unanimously voted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10PM

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Stickney, Director of Planning and Community Development