

**Braintree Historical Commission**  
Minutes  
**March 7, 2011**  
Thayer Public Library

Present: Elizabeth Mees (Chair) Ron Frazier  
Al Varraso

Absent: Paul Carr, Kate Nedelman Herbst

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

Meeting convened at 7:00 PM

Elm Street Cemetery – Final Report

Christine reported that Barbara Donohue submitted her final report however due to the size of it she was unable to make hard copies for each member. Members discussed how they could review the report electronically or in hard copies. Christine will provide the report in some format to each of the members. Christine asked if it should be made public and Ron Frazier felt members should review it first before going public.

Union School/Legion Building

Al Varraso reported that the Union School experienced leaking with the latest weather and urged members that something needs to be asap.

Old Thayer Library

Christine informed members of staff's work with developing the Mass Preservation Project Fund (MPPF) application and the need for a matching local share which is being proposed from CPA funds. Due to the nature of the grant being a reimbursement program the Town must have sufficient funds allotted to guarantee the total project cost. Christine suggested noted the CPA request was for \$200,000 and the maximum award from MHC is only \$100,000 to any one project. The CPA application requests that if an applicant has more than one request for funding that they be prioritized – members agreed that Old Thayer Library should be first, followed by both the Inventory Forms and Union school being second in their ranking for funding.

Inventory Forms

Members discussed how to best move forward with this request. Elizabeth Mees noted that a map of an area of Braintree square plus was created that can be circulated with a scope of services for a cost estimate. Ron noted that the last inventory was not done correctly and that this one needs to be done conforming to the Form B survey form to assure accuracy. Elizabeth noted that this can be required in the scope of services and suggested we might be able to contact Electra Trish since she did the last one. Christine questioned to whom should this be sent to for responses, members suggested an

Page 2  
BHC Minutes 3/7/11

architectural historian and that if put out on the list serve more than likely one would respond.

CPA Matters

Christine informed members that a number of historic applications for funding were received by the CPC and they were: All Souls, First Congregational, Old Thayer Library and Town Clerk. Members discussed their concern for the requests from Churches and the CPA statute. Christine informed members that her research in the matter allows for churches to be funded if they are at least over 50 years old and deemed a historic resource. Some communities have decided to not fund any religious buildings due to the issue of separation of church and state; however other communities like Nantucket have funded. Members discussed how they should establish a degree of historical significance. Ron Frazier suggested that it should be on the age of the building – the older the building the greater the scale of significance. Discussion continued about going back 300 years in fifty year increments and assigning a degree – this would assure the oldest buildings. Members agreed to have this on the next agenda for discussion.

Administrative

Al Varraso **MOTION** to table the minutes of 1/3/11 and 2/7/11 for the next meeting, seconded by Ron Frazier – unanimously voted.

Al Varraso **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ron Frazier – unanimously voted. Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Stickney, Director  
Planning and Community Development