

**Braintree Historical Commission**  
Minutes  
**May 2, 2011**  
Thayer Public Library

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

Absent: Kate Nedelman Herbst

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

Meeting convened at 7:00 PM

Town Clerk – Historic Documents/CPA funding:

Town Clerk Joe Powers provided members with a handout and gave some background as to his request of the Historical Commission. Last year, he submitted a request for CPA funding and received \$25,000.00 towards the vital records project. He has returned this year to the CPA once again for additional funding for the 2010 project but also with another project that the CPA re-directed him to the BHC to vote if it is deemed a historically significant. The CPA voted on 4/25/11 to fund the project conditional on Town Clerk obtaining a vote from the BHC. Clerk Powers explained the differences between last year's request and this current one with the help of his handout. He noted that most of all the records in the Town's vault are in need of conservation and preservation and in his opinion they are deemed historically significant. Clerk Powers read from a 1999 – MHC Advisory Records Board – summary strategic plan the definition of "What are historical records". In addition he noted that pursuant to Mass General Laws Chap. 66 Sections 8 & 9 that it clearly states the records are to be retained and preserved in the vault. In his opinion all records in his vault are deemed historically significant at some point in time.

Al Varraso **MOTION** that the permanent records within the Town Clerk vault are deemed historically significant, seconded by Ron Frazier – unanimously voted.

All Souls Church – Referral from the CPA Committee:

John Cobble and Bob Bloomberg attended the meeting on behalf of the All Souls Church and explained how they met with the CPA committee on 4/25/11 and were directed to consult with the Historical Commission on their project. Christine Stickney noted that the Church is eligible to proceed directly to the CPA committee since they have been recommended by Mass Historical for eligibility to the National Register and what they are seeking this evening is not a vote on one of the three criteria but rather comment and approval of the construction materials and project as to the preservation of the historical character of the building. Ron Frazier expressed his opinion of funding a church project with historical funds. Elizabeth Mees noted that there are standards of the interior that

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are required for the National Register that will need to be adhered to and will guide what materials can and can not be used. Bob Bloomberg and John Cobble gave examples of guidance they are seeking relative to the rubber roof, snow guards and the fluted gutter connections. Ron Frazier suggested they consult with Historic New England to see if they could provide guidance on these types of issues. Bob Bloomberg expressed concerns with time frames and returning to the CPA for their 5/9/11 meeting. It was agreed the All Souls representatives would seek advice to Historic New England.

Continued Historic Structures and Criteria discussion:

Christine reported on her efforts to contact the representative from Brookline with no success. She did obtain criteria from Newton as to historical significance and provided it as a handout to the members to review. Members discussed their meeting with the CPA and the receptive response received as to historic significance and discussion of demolition delay bylaw they were please with it. Elizabeth Mees noted we need to move forward and tie this up she like the approached previously suggested by Ron Frazier. The matter was continued to the next agenda for discussion.

Discussion on expanding area of Historic Inventory Forms:

At the last meeting, members had described a scope of services and looked at a map of an area in Braintree square they would solicit with the scope. Ron Frazier brought a map with him that expanded that area and he discussed with members why he believed it should be expanded. Members discussed what would happen if the quotes came in higher than their appropriation? Discussion turned to phasing the work and members also noted some structures were done with the Eliza Trish study that could be provided with the solicitation that should help potential consultants with a proposed quote. Members agreed to expand the area and solicit the scope of work. Christine will have the GIS department amend the map per the mark-up provided.

Update on CPA Funding requests:

Christine updated members on the recent projects before the CPA – the First Congregational Church was continued until June more work was needed on the application. The Highlands Playground and Town Clerk's project were all approved. All Souls is schedule to return to 5/9/11 to the CPA.

Old Thayer Library

Members having been present at the CPA meeting were aware of the approved funding. Christine noted that the MHC required action from the Town Council relative to the placement of a preservation restriction – this was on the 4/26/11 agenda and asked to be moved along for ASAP. In addition, the CPA committee had questioned staff to inquire about Town Meeting Article #5 in 2005 that allowed for 1.5 million to be bonded for the town Hall and Old Thayer Library. Christine noted that she had checked with Town Clerk as to the language and Town Accountant as to the balance and there is approx. \$392,000.00 funds available of the bonds that were undertaken but bonding capacity still

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remains. Ron Frazier **MOTION** that the Historical Committee instruct staff to consult wit Mayor Sullivan to ask that the \$392,000.00 (+/-) be earmarked for use on the Old Thayer Library, seconded by Al Varraso – unanimously voted. Christine said she would relay the committee’s vote and desire to have these funds set aside.

Elm Street Cemetery – B. Donahoe:

Christine had explored possibly printing multiple copies of the plan for members but the cost was prohibitive only electronic CDs could be provided. It has been a month plus that members have had this and she asked for comments, concerns or omissions that she could let Barbara know are needed. No one had anything except Ron Frazier’s earlier comment that the reference City of Braintree needs to be changed to Town of Braintree. Members agreed to have an informal walk through the cemetery coordinated with MHC archeology month in October – Christine will notify Barbara Donahoe.

Other:

Paul Carr asked Christine about the status of the LHD amended district and she replied that other matters have taken her away from it but she would make it a priority prior to the next meeting. Paul also asked about surveying the lot of the Gallivan House. He feels the boundaries of the site should be clear particularly with the fire station parking area. It should be clear what the town property is and what is the house – clearly defined.

Administrative Matters:

Al Varraso **MOTION** to accept the minutes of 4/4/11, seconded by Ron Frazier – unanimously voted.

Summer Schedule – members agreed to have a meeting on June 20<sup>th</sup> rather than June 6<sup>th</sup> at the Town Hall to cover the beginning of the summer and if needed a meeting could be called later in the summer.

Al Varraso **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ron Frazier – unanimously voted. Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Stickney, Director  
Planning and Community Development