

Braintree Historical Commission
Minutes
January 9, 2012
Town Hall – Johnson Chambers

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

Also Present: Christine Stickney, Director of Planning and Community Development

Meeting convened at 7:06 PM

Historical Significance:

Elizabeth Mees provided everyone with a handout dated 1/9/12 with background and suggested guidelines for applicants considering a determination of historical significance – this is merely for discussion tonight. Christine had reviewed Elizabeth’s draft and provided some response in a red-line version that she handed out as well clarifying CPA related issues. Members discussed what happens if it doesn’t meet any of the historical criteria? Elizabeth noted then it would not come before the Historical Commission. Kate Nedelman Herbst asked about an “opt out” that may be needed for unforeseen type structure. Members agreed to review the materials and discuss at the next meeting.

Paul Carr noted that in speaking about historical significance where does the Gallivan House situation stand. Christine noted that she has been working on a revised submission to MHC to address Chris Skelly’s questions as to the historical significance. She will provide an update at the next meeting. Paul Carr stressed the urgency to have these two properties included in the LHD for the Braintree Historical Society.

CPA Projects and Historical Preservation Agreements:

Christine updated members on the discussion at the CPA committee with regards to funded historical projects having historic preservation agreements/restrictions placed upon them and who could do both public and private. Christine noted for private establishments the Braintree Historic Commission can do the annual review of the restriction if so desired, however they cannot do the Town buildings – it has to be a “non-governmental” entity. Christine wondered if this would be of interest to the Braintree Historical Society – like open space acquisitions – the CPA funding can include a stipend that can be utilized for checking the restriction as it relates to the property annually. Members agreed that the Historical Commission should do private funding projects and that a letter be sent to the Braintree Historical Society asking if they have an interest.

East Braintree Mural – Members viewed the mural as hung in the stair way outside the meeting room. The Mayor’s office will be having some type of dedication – more details to come.

Old Thayer Library Update:

Christine informed members that we continue to wait for the MHC contract and that she is concerned that time will work against us. A contract needs to sign with the MHC and the Town before the project can be advertised for bids. There is a June 30th deadline that is approaching and Christine is concerned

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that this could be problematic. Also another grant round should be coming out soon from MHC and Elizabeth noted the doors and windows should be considered for the next funding round. Members urged Christine to bring the matter to the Mayor's office for his attention.

Elizabeth noted more design work is needed at the rear and interior to meet certain codes (i.e.: restroom head clearance etc.). The BHC was directed to restore the building not determine usage that lies with the Mayor's office – focus is with the exterior restoration effort now. Ron Frazier noted in the past a building study committee would be established. Elizabeth felt the Mayor needs to instruct the BHC how much more involvement he desires from BHC as to accessibility, interior restoration etc.

Kate Nedelman Herbst asked about the reschedule meeting with the Mayor and provided alternative dates she would be available. Christine will try to work with the Mayor's office for a date that works with her and Elizabeth.

Administrative:

Members were provided a handout of their meeting schedule for 2012 – there was some discussion of the primary and election day.

Al Varraso **MOTION** to accept the minutes of 12/5/11, seconded by Kate Nedelman Herbst – Unanimously voted.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Stickney, Director
Planning and Community Development