

Braintree Historical Commission
Minutes
February 6, 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 7:02 PM

Mayor Sullivan/Sustainable Delay:

Elizabeth and Christine met with Mayor Sullivan on 1/27/12 regarding his review and thoughts on the proposed zoning bylaw. Elizabeth explained to him the importance of documentation for historical purposes of structures being lost to demolition or total remodels is as a primary purpose for the proposal. The bylaw would be a zoning ordinance rather than a general ordinance and would require approval from the Planning Board and the Town Council. The Mayor was supportive of the proposal and if needed would sponsor it.

MHC Preservation Project Grant Round 18

Christine informed members that MHC has announced another round of grants and asked if the BHC wants to consider an application for the second phase for Old Thayer Library – doors and windows. Elizabeth suggested asking the architect to come up with an estimate for preserving the windows and doors to be used to make application. Paul Carr questioned the issue of the windows at the rear of the building and what is the long term plans. Elizabeth agreed more review is needed – she noted the bricked in window arches previously pointed out by Paul Carr.

Kate Nedelman Herbst **MOTION** to submit an application for Round 18 for the Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund (MPPF) for Phase II exterior restoration work of windows, doors, sills and granite stairs of the Old Thayer Library, seconded by Ron Frazier – Unanimously voted.

Members discussed future items including a rear addition for the handicap accessibility that should be forth come if there is a Round 19 from Mass. Historical Commission. In addition the committee agreed to seek CPA funds for the local match.

CPA Spring Application deadline:

Kate Nedelman Herbst **MOTION** to submit an application to the Community Preservation Committee for the 50% plus match in the amount of \$116,000.00 required for Round 18 for the Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund (MPPF) for Phase II exterior restoration work of windows, doors, sills and granite stairs of the Old Thayer Library, seconded by Al Varraso – Unanimously voted.

Ron Frazier expressed his desire to have a CPA application submitted for the next steps with the Elm Street Cemetery Preservation Management Plan. Ron Frazier **MOTION** to submit an application based on obtaining an estimate, seconded by Al Varraso – no vote rather discussion on the landscaping pursued as to the Town's role and if applicable or should a private entity be considered for selective

Page 2
BHC Minutes 2/13/12

pruning and landscape maintenance. In the end it was agreed to seek an estimate from a private landscape/tree pruning company working from the recommendations of the preservation plan.

Historical Preservation Restrictions:

Christine shared with members Town Counsel's opinion regarding the All Souls Church situation could have a term or be perpetual. In addition Christine noted she has not had time to write to the Braintree Historical Society with regards to holding restrictions on the Town Buildings.

Update LHD District/Gallivan House:

Christine provided members with a copy of a letter from MHC dated 1/30/12 deeming the preliminary study complete and that the MHC would be reviewing the matter at their next monthly meeting. Members asked Christine to find out when that meeting is and if the public can attend. Christine asked about the local public hearing needed if it could be March 5th meeting – notice in the newspaper and abutters are notified – members agreed and suggested the Mayor and Town Council members be informed of the hearing as well.

Historical Significance Discussion

Elizabeth asked if members had comments on the handout given last meeting – it was agreed to table it and send the handout with the agenda for next month.

Updates: Union School – Al Varraso reported the roof was completed and the contractor did a good job and the site was left nice and clean.

Old Thayer Library – The Bargmann + Hendrie contract had to be re-sent because the original had been lost in the mail but they are good to go when construction starts. Elizabeth will talk with Jack Glassman and Meghan Hanrahan as to hold up with getting the Town contract.

Administrative:

Al Varraso **MOTION** to accept the minutes of 1/9/12 seconded by Kate Nedelman Herbst – unanimously voted.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8pm

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Stickney, Director
Planning and Community Development