

Braintree Historical Commission
Minutes
January 7, 2013
Town Hall – Johnson Chambers

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

Absent: Al Varraso

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

Meeting convened at 7:05 PM

All Souls Church Preservation Restriction – Members present were asked to endorse the document – this is the second revised restriction that had been sent back from Mass Historical Commission.

New Business:

Old Thayer Library – Architect: Christine reported that two firms answered the response for qualifications Bargmann Hendrie + Archetype and CSS Architects. Christine asked Elizabeth and Kate to assist her with the review of the two proposals which they did and resulted in the recommendation of BH+A to the Mayor. Paul Carr questioned Christine why the entire Commission wasn't asked to review. Christine explained that in the past it had been 3 folks looking at the requests and to have the entire commission review would require meetings to be posted. Paul expressed his concern with the process and selection of window treatments. Christine explained that the work included an assessment of the exterior windows and doors. She added that the scope of work required the architects to do some background work and research to present to the Braintree Historical Commission for their decision information on alternatives. No decisions as to any designs have been made by hiring this firm to perform the work. Paul Carr asked what the work included. Christine and Elizabeth explained the items under review including de-leading of the windows will also need to be done by the next step which would be construction. Christine noted that depending on how fast the contract is turnaround from the Town will determine when they can start – if quick they may be able to share their preliminary findings at the next meeting.

Guidelines for Historic Significance: Members discussed now that their policy has been established on Historical Significance how can this be distributed or made available for the general public. Christine suggested the following; that the CPA committee be asked to include it in their application, it be included in the Certificate of Appropriateness application and it can be posted on the Town web page. Elizabeth Mees suggested the November meeting date it was accepted be added to the final policy – which was November 11/13/12.

Discussion of Preservation Criteria: Elizabeth Mees re-capped the discussion from the last meeting surrounding a homeowner's effort to preserve a historical home and if they should be recognized. Members discussed the difference between stabilization and preservation. Paul Carr suggested that if a historic district were created that then it should be recognized publically. Discussion turned to the two projects in the Elm Street area – All Souls Church and the Culkin residence. Christine asked if the Braintree Historical Society should be the organization recognizing rather than the Commission which is a town entity. Paul Carr added that this is what he had established with the house

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plaque program – Ron Frazier added that when he was in Dedham Blue Hills Vo-technical did the signs for them. It was agreed it needs to be something discussed with the Braintree Historical Society.

Old Business:

Demolition Delay – Christine reported that this is still under development – she needs to get with the Town Clerk and Town Solicitor to determine the most current version of the bylaw as a result of the transition. Discussion continued to a future meeting.

Elm Street Cemetery – Ron Frazier noted he had gone before the CPA committee and a lot of their questions concerned future vandalism. He had informed them on the intent to work with the BELD and Police Department to address vandalism. Ron Frazier raised the question of the next phases of the gravestone restoration – additional priority 1 stones. Discussion turned to if there should be a March application or wait for the fall 2013 application deadline. It was agreed to wait until the fall to put another application in before the CPA committee. Christine noted that under the current application if approved by the CPA committee it still needs to go to the Mayor's office, then to Town Council for appropriation and if successful then a contract still needs to be developed and signed before any work could begin.

On-line Survey results – Kate Nedelman Herbst provided the commission with a draft press release for review and discussion. Members will review and mark up if needed and return it for the next meeting in February. Ron Frazier suggested something be added that says they can still take the survey on-line. Christine said she would have to re-post it on-line because it has been taken down – she added the press release should include the BHC member's names.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:55PM

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Stickney, Director
Planning and Community Development