

Braintree Historical Commission  
Minutes  
February 4, 2013  
Town Hall – Johnson Chambers

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

Absent: Kate Nedelman-Herbst

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

Meeting convened at 7:00 PM

Braintree Historical Society – Discussion on signs:

Matthew Mees, President of the Braintree Historical Society explained to the Commission that the Thayer and French Houses are in need of new signage. The existing signs have deteriorated beyond repair and need to be replaced. Matthew went on to explain that signs under the Local Historic District are not subject to BHC review however he wanted to share the proposal with the BHC for their input. Using a sign companies graphic design he showed both signs and their coloring. The Rotary has donated the signs to the BHC as part of their community efforts. Members discussed the types of fonts, dates to be on the signs, coloring of background and lettering. Members felt both signs should have a consistent look to provide conformity. Al Varraso noted that the Rotary wants to hang them on 5/4 beautification day. Members discussed installation of the signs and planting of lavender around the bases to hide installation materials. Members then discussed the signage program for houses throughout the community and the need for consistency. Matthew Mees thanked the members for their input and left the meeting.

Elm Street Cemetery – CPA Application:

Ron Frazier expressed his frustration with the CPA approval process and information the committee was requesting that went beyond the original request. He recapped a conversation between him and John Dennehy as to what could be done to address lighting and patrolling around the cemetery. Ron noted he has no success with BELD and the police department. Christine explained the inquiries and that she felt the CPA had lost site of the deterioration and aging issue of the stones and the need to restore that they had become more focused on the vandalism issue in the cemetery. She said the CPA had continued the matter to 2/11/13 for Ron to attend however he commented he would not be attending since there was nothing more he could provide. Elizabeth Mees suggested that she draft a letter to the CPA explaining what the commission has been trying to do re: lighting and patrolling the cemetery.

Review of the survey press release:

Elizabeth Mees said she had some suggested revisions – Kate was absent tonight – the matter was continued to next meeting.

Demolition Delay Bylaw:

Christine reported that the proposed bylaw has been with the Town Solicitor since the Mayor gave it to her – she will check on it with her. Members also asked what happened with the Local Historic District – Christine answered it was given to the Town solicitor in May of 2012 and never went forward to the

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Council. There seems to be an issue with what version of the existing general bylaw is the most current and amended – the transition team had made some modifications. Christine will check on this matter as well with the Town Solicitor and Town Clerk.

Other:

Christine reported that the All Souls Historic Preservation restriction was finally filed in the Registry of Deeds – closing out the project.

Christine also reported that the contract with Bargmann & Hendrie was signed and returned. She anticipates Jack Glassman will be reaching out to discuss the project soon with the staff and Historic Commission.

Administrative Matters:

For the next agenda members want to discuss a possible Local historic district in the Braintree Square/ Elm Street area

The minutes of 12/3/13 were tabled until the next meeting.

Ron Frazier MOTION to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Al Varraso – Unanimously voted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Stickney, Director  
Planning and Community Development