

Braintree Historical Commission
Minutes
May 6, 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

Historic Inventory proposals:

The BHC reviewed at their last meeting the six proposals submitted by various consultants. Christine noted that she check with Mass. Preservation consultant list and found some to be on the list and other not to be on the list. She had also left some emails and voicemails to different historic commissions for references – the only return call came on ttl-architects from the concord historic planner that gave a favorable reference. In addition since the last meeting Christine had spoken with Peter Morin as to authorization to use other funds to cover the range of fee estimates so the commission could review the qualifications without concern for the price. Ron Frazier commented that we asked in the proposal for a architectural historian and the only firms he saw that met that criteria was Rowley, Broomer and ttl-architects. Paul Carr noted his recommendation for Community Opportunities Group – citing their senior personnel to be the project managers. Members discussed why an architectural historian is needed to perform the research and assessment. Elizabeth Mees noted that she had not been able to review in depth the different proposals and she would be abstaining from any vote. Members discussed postponing the vote to next month however Christine noted that the proposals were submitted in early March and she wondered how much longer proposers could wait for answers and she urged if they could vote it would be helpful.

Paul Carr **MOTION** to make recommendations tonight in order to consider a vote, seconded by Al Varraso – vote 3:0:1 (E. Mees abstain) Paul Carr commented that he felt the two first proposers (Old Mohawk and Rowley) appeared to not have a lot of experience in his opinion. Ron Frazier noted that Rowley Design had an architectural historian. Members discussed the difference between architectural historian and preservation planner – because of the MHC Form B is the end work product we want an architectural historian. Ron Frazier **MOTION** to recommend Ms. Broomer to award the contract to for this work, seconded by Al Varraso – vote 3:0:1 (E. Mees abstain). Members discussed if they should have a second choice if their first choice could not perform the work. Ron Frazier **MOTION** to recommend Rowley Design Studio as the second choice should the first not accepts to do the work, seconded by Al Varraso – vote 3:0:1 (E. Mees abstain). Members asked Christine to check the references and if all appear to be in good standing contact Ms. Broomer regarding the award.

Request for member at CPA meeting:

Christine informed the members that the Chair of the CPA requested that a member of the Historical Commission be present at the next CPA meeting on May 20, 2013. Ron Frazier expressed his frustration why a member needs to be present - Ron questioned why can't the CPA make a decision? Christine updated the members about discussions with the DPW and BELD as to installation of surveillance

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camera at the cemetery. Christine is waiting for comment back from the DPW superintendent if this will go forward since this is his jurisdiction – under his division of grounds and cemeteries. Ron Frazier noted that this past weekend he had run into the DPW superintendent and he seemed excited to have the cemetery stones restored. Elizabeth Mees agreed to attend the May 20th CPA meeting.

Restoration of the Civil War statute – Town Mall

Christine reported that the grant writer, Barbara Mello is putting together a grant proposal for funding to restore, repoint and clean the existing statute under a program offered by MHC for funding. She has asked if the BHC would be willing to submit a letter of support for the grant. Members reviewed a proposed letter and agreed to support the effort; Elizabeth Mees signed the letter on behalf of the BHC. Christine also discussed that if the grant application is successful there is a local match needed from the Town – Ms. Mello has recommended that a CPA application be considered for the local match and has asked if the BHC would consider being the sponsor of the application and she would assist in the application process. Members agreed this is a worthy grant application and it is minimal funding to request from the CPA and would sponsor for the next round of applications. Ron Frazier **MOTION** that the Braintree Historical Commission be the sponsor for the CPA application for matching funds for the grant application, seconded by Al Varraso – unanimously voted.

Update on the Gallivan House:

Christine has been working with the Braintree Historical Society (BHS) and to date they have signed the CPA Agreement and she is waiting for the Historic Restriction to be returned. Today the president of the Braintree Historical Society called her to report that the bank that holds the mortgage was not agreeable to signing the restriction and will be sending a letter to the BHS as to their reasons for not signing. Members asked what happens now – Christine noted that she spoke with the Town Solicitor today and she provided direction for the CPA to consider at their next meeting. Christine will keep the members informed on the progress of the document. Christine reminded members that the historical restriction has to be signed by the Historical Commission since they will be the ones responsible for restriction. Ron Frazier **MOTION** to recommend approval for the endorsement of the Gallivan House historical restriction when it is returned to the Planning and Community Development Office, seconded by Al Varraso – unanimously voted. Christine will let members know when they come to the office to sign.

Sustainable Braintree Demolition Delay – nothing to report. Members asked what the status is as to the Local Historic District inclusion of the Gallivan House and the amendment to the Local Historic Center Bylaw.

Al Varraso **MOTION** to accept the minutes of 4/1/13, seconded by Paul Carr – unanimously voted.

Members discussed the need for summer meetings (July and August) – it was agreed these would be on an as needed schedule – the meetings beginning in September have already been set through the end of the calendar year 2013.

Al Varraso **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Paul Carr – unanimously voted. The meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Stickney, Director – Planning and Community Development