

Braintree Historical Commission
Minutes
March 3, 2014
Johnson Chambers – Braintree Town Hall

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

Absent: Kate Nedelman-Herbst

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

Meeting convened at 7:00 PM

New Business

Associate Members on Local Historical Commissions: Christine had provided members with a section of the February MHC Preservation E-newsletter that had an article about a recent amendment to the enabling statute that now allows local historical commissions to have alternate members. Ron Frazier commented that we have always had associate members – Christine noted that local historic district committees in the past had been allowed alternates and that this amendment is for historical commissions. Ron added that the Braintree general bylaw allows for seven members however we only have five and should ask the Mayor for two more members and one should be a realtor in compliance with the ordinance/bylaw. Names were mentioned of local realtors that should be asked rather than accept this provision. The matter will be discussed with Mayor Sullivan.

Historic Plaque Program: Elizabeth Mees asked to have this on the agenda after seeing it in the March MHC Preservation E-newsletter as well – a handout was provided to the members. Ron Frazier said that he provided all kinds of information to the Braintree Historical Society a number of years ago. Paul Carr had some recollection of the materials and he said that members John Pelose and Joe Moscolito were asked to look into it and get back to him – he was unsure of their findings on this matter. Members discussed how it would be implemented and how it would be advertised to the public. Elizabeth Mees asked about having the two gentlemen attending an upcoming meeting to have a discussion on the program. Paul was unsure of their attendance – he will reach out them and see where it stands. Members entered into a discussion of what the color the plaques should or would have to be – Ron Frazier informed members this is not something the BHC would do but rather the Braintree Historical Society (BHS) because of the revenue generated with the sale of the plaques. Al Varraso suggested that we should see if the BHS even want to be involved in the implementation of the program. Elizabeth Mees asked that Ron provide the information again and she asked Paul Carr about having a discussion with these folks.

Old Thayer Library – MAAB Variance Request: Christine shared with the members the approval the Town obtained from the Architectural Access Board (MAAB) for the relief from compliance for the main historical entrance, interior thresholds and door to meeting room #2 latch pull clearance. She explained the process that had to be taken by an outside consultant to make filing and obtain the approval. Christine also mentioned that the local Commission on Disability (COD) would like to sit with the BHC when the design for Phase III is commencing. Elizabeth Mees agreed they would be involved and the BHC can sit with them as things progress.

Page 2 – BHC Minutes 3/3/14

CPA Application deadline: Christine reminded members she filed two applications today 1) for Old Thayer Library – additional architectural services and 2) the Elm Street Cemetery stone repairs. Paul Carr asked about the scope of working including a “leveling” of the stone bases. Ron Frazier explained how the previous contractor, Drollet had excavated and reset the ones he worked on last year in the cemetery. It was agreed operational issues need to be discussed with the DPW. Al Varraso **MOTION** to approve the filing of the CPA applications of the Old Thayer Library and Elm Street Cemetery, seconded by Ron Frazier – unanimously voted. Paul Carr **MOTION** to deem the Elm Street Cemetery as historically significant for compliance with the CPA criteria for funding requests, seconded by Al Varraso – unanimously voted.

Old Business

Historical Inventory (Group 1) forms – Christine provided members on 2/4/14 the “Group 1” forms prepared in draft form by the Consultant for review by the BHC members. Members were satisfied with the Group 1 forms – Christine will notify the Consultant of their approval – Group 2 had arrived, Christine will forward to members electronically unless members want paper copies – Al, Paul and Ron asked for paper copies. Ms. Broomer has requested to appear before the BHC to present the final work project for the contract – members suggested she attend the May 5th meeting that way all the groups should be completed. Christine will contact her with the date and time. Ron Frazier questioned if her scope of work included sending them to the State – Christine will check into the scope. Paul Carr questioned what we will do with these forms once done. Ron Frazier commented the whole town needs to be done – we may want mini local historic districts. Members had previously discussed a local historic district in the Elm Street area and the time might be right for this given the first congregation project for the stamp act and the Elm Street Cemetery project.

Demolition of structures: Ron Frazier informed the commission of his efforts to photograph the home located at 177 Commercial Street prior to demolition. He also mentioned he had a reliable source telling him three more homes are coming down on Quincy Avenue – this lead into the discussion of the demolition delay bylaw – Christine had nothing to report back from the Town Solicitor. Elizabeth Mees mentioned that she would like to meet with the Mayor to talk about a lot of these issues – Christine will schedule an appointment for her.

BH+A Negotiated Contract: Christine reported that the Town Hall exterior assessment was awarded to Bargmann + Hendrie Archetype, Inc. and the contract is being processed and they will be having a kick off meeting soon for the project. The BHC will need to hold a hearing for a Certificate of Appropriateness for any proposed work. Ron Frazier commented McKim architectural library has been preserved – we should see if they have any plans.

Administrative

Budget Process upcoming: Christine reported she is working on the budget – it is level funded so unless the BHC knew of something – she will submit the same as last year.

Minutes: Ron Frazier **MOTION** to accept the minutes of 1/6/14, seconded by Al Varraso, unanimously voted. Ron Frazier **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Al Varraso – unanimously voted. Meeting adjourned at 8:20PM

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