

Braintree Historical Commission
Minutes
Wednesday, May 7, 2014
Johnson Chambers – Braintree Town Hall

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

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

Meeting convened at 7:03 PM

Town Celebration & Chair's meeting with Mayor: Elizabeth reported on her meeting with the Mayor 4/11/14 – they discussed the status of the demolition delay bylaw and urging the Town Solicitor to move it along. The Mayor suggested a new title – Heritage Bylaw – may be more accepting by the general public for residents to understand it is documentation process rather than a delay. Ron Frazier commented that two houses on Quincy Ave came down and unfortunately they could not document since no notice was provided. The Mayor questioned the Chair if the bylaw could be rolled into a beautification bylaw that his office has been pursuing however the statutes for issue each are different. Elizabeth suggests recognition or award should be considered for the property if it has been restored. Elizabeth also reported that the Mayor was going to have a meeting with the Council on May 13th to discuss the Town's 375th celebration and other historical activities going on in the community.

At the end of the meeting, Mike Ford from BELD came in and the need for a light at the Elm Street cemetery was discussed and Mike said he would take care of it. Elizabeth felt it was a very positive meeting with the Mayor.

Old Business:

Historic Plaque Program: Paul Carr reported that he had spoken with John Pelose and John Moscato – they need some additional people to get this going.

Historic Inventory Group 3: Christine had the final inventory forms available for viewing with the commission – 84 in total with the original photography. She reported that Kathleen Broomer, the consultant has submitted them to the MHC and the commission received a letter that they were accepted and will be added to the MACRIS data base. Kathleen will be coming to the BHC next meeting to provide a report on the historic inventory forms. Ron Frazier questioned why the house at the corner of Monatiquot Ave was not included? Christine responded that the BHC approved the map of the area to be reviewed – she will have the map at the next meeting. Christine asked if the commission wants these put on-line and members agreed yes they should be made available to the public. Paul Carr commented the next area should be down Independence Ave to the Quincy line over behind Elm Street. Ron Frazier commented most of that area was the former Thorndike mansion and grounds. Members agreed another area needs to be considered and submitted for funding from the CPC.

Old Thayer Library: Christine gave an update the door and windows are finally going forward. She also explained that there was a funding request for 75K for Phase III. Paul Carr questioned the addition and handicap accessibility if the funding request was to start actual construction – he has issues with this phase. Christine explained that the funding being requested from CPA now is for review and design –

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architectural services to figure out what can and can't be done. Elizabeth noted there may be an issue with the restrooms that may require it to be part of the addition – no one will know until detailed review is done and a design put forward for the Town to consider. Paul Carr questioned what will the building be used for in the future – Christine responded that is for the Mayor to decide. Elizabeth will be meeting with CPC to discuss the funding request on Monday night.

Administrative: Ron Frazier **MOTION** to accept the minutes of 4/7/14, seconded by Kate Nedelman Herbst – unanimously voted.

Summer Meeting Schedule: Members agreed to have one meeting on July 28th – Christine will reserve a room.

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