

Braintree Historical Commission
Minutes
Monday, October 5, 2015
Cahill Auditorium – Braintree Town Hall

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

Absent: Kate Nedelman-Herbst

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

Meeting convened at 7:00 pm

Old Thayer Library/Town Hall (ADA Plaza Concept)

Christine reported that after the discussion with this commission she attend the Commission on Disability meeting and she felt in general they were ok with the proposal but wanted additional walkways which could not be accommodated because of grades and some minor parking realignment. She also went to the CPC meeting with the project and there was less of a favorable response some members felt it was a glorified skate park and they were not amenable to using administrative funds to have a cost estimate done. Christine has made through the Finance Department a request for capital funding to have it priced out for future progress – this will require Town Council action.

Historic Plaque Program

Christine reported that the letter was sent from the Commission to Chris Barney last June regarding the agreed upon parameters of the signs. Ron Frazier said they had a table at Heritage Days but was unsure of how the program was going.

October Celebrations

Ron Frazier said he had attended a meeting with the 375th Anniversary committee and that he would be attending the All Souls event on 10/11/15. Christine noted the entire commission had been invited however members are not able to attend – Ron will attend on behalf of the Historic Commission. Re-enactments at Elm Street Cemetery are also occurring – Ron commented the Cemetery is looking good and that he has been trying to obtain before and after pictures of the stones repaired from Colonial Stone.

Project Updates

Christine reported that the Town Hall assessment is complete and the roof has been closed out. The John Adams Park is supposed to be having something on 10/17 as to a dedication of the kiosk and park. Al Varraso said they need to turn the stone around and have it between the two flag poles so it can be more visible to the public. Christine will look into it. Nothing happening with the demolition delay as far as Christine knows. Christine reported that she has been working with Al Varraso to get the historical assessment out and solicited for proposals – she provided a draft copy for review – it is possible to be done for the first of the year. There is an existing application (2012) request for 40K made to the CPC that has never been acted upon that will need action to fund the assessment. Members also discussed the situation with the insurance and short term items the insurance company has highlighted in need of attention for safety. Al said the DPW was going to take care of those few items.

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Local Historic District – website

Christine informed members that their web page has a new section on the Town's Local Historic District that was completed under a summer intern project done by Mike Crawford from Franklin Pierce College.

Administrative

The Commission will discuss the 2016 meeting schedule at the November meeting. Ron Frazier and Elizabeth Mees had some minor corrections to the 3/2/15 minutes. Al Varraso **MOTION** to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Paul Carr – unanimously voted.

Members discussed the need to do some other areas in Town under the historic inventory program perhaps South Braintree Square and the structures around sunset lake. Ron Frazier will talk with Nancy Nicosia who is very familiar with South Braintree square and see what she suggests. Christine will bring a street map to the next meeting for a future discussion.

Al Varraso **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ron Frazier – unanimous.

The meeting ended at 7:45 PM

Respectfully submitted

Christine Stickney, Director
Planning and Community Development