

**Provincetown Historical Commission**  
**March 30, 2007**  
**Minutes**

Meeting called to order 9:00 AM

Members Present: Polly Burnell, Eric Dray, Austin Knight, Taylor Polites, Char Priolo

Members Absent: Steven Milkewicz (unexcused)

Also present: Deborah Paine

**1. Approval of Agenda**

Austin Knight moved to approve the agenda for the meeting. Char Priolo seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0-0

**2. "Poor Richard's Landing", 437-439 Commercial Street**

Deborah Paine came before the Commission to request a letter of support related to ongoing negotiations with the Department of Environmental Protection related to Chapter 91 enforcement at 437-439 Commercial Street. Paine related a brief history of "Poor Richard's Landing" as an artists' and writers' enclave in the East End where a group of cottages have been used as reasonably priced seasonal rentals for many decades. Beginning in 2006, the owners were engaged in significant renovations to preserve the property, asking Paine to be their proxy for the required permits and approvals. Paine originally contacted the DEP for a Chapter 91 permit and the DEP requested a public way be maintained through the middle of the property from Commercial Street to the waterfront. Paine engaged in negotiations with the DEP to find an alternative solution and as of May 2006, the property owners had agreed to fund a public art installation on the beachfront in conjunction with the Cultural Council and with the approval of the DEP in the stead of maintaining public access to the waterfront. Late in 2006, the DEP returned to Paine, insisting that the owners maintain public access, maintain the gardens interior to the property as public gardens, and fund the art installation. Paine argued that the burdens demanded by the DEP were arbitrary and onerous and would alter the historic and cultural nature of the property, thus ending its use as a cultural enclave.

Dray moved that a letter be drafted and sent to the DEP in support of Paine's request that the DEP return to the initially negotiated and accepted agreement in order to protect the artistic and traditional uses of the property while still meeting Chapter 91 requirements. Priolo seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0

**3. Articles 11, 12 and 17 of the 2007 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.**

The Commission agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

Knight left the meeting.

#### **4. Preserving Provincetown's Oral History**

Priolo updated the Commission on her research regarding the Oral History Project. Priolo detailed the location of existing oral histories: several video oral histories were in the possession of Provincetown's Tourism Director, Bill Schneider, related to a promotional video that was recently produced, including community members Dave Dutra, Reggie Enos, Mary P. Roderick, Frances Raymond, George Bryant, Rob Costa, Richard Olson, and Flyer Santos; other oral histories existed at WOMR Radio Station related to Joyce Johnson's program, "The Sands of Time"; up to 56 oral histories existed at the Provincetown Public Library under the care of Debra DeJonker-Berry.

- Dray requested Priolo create a master list documenting the location of all existing oral histories as a starting point for evaluating next steps and priorities in preserving local history.

Polites suggested a partnership between the Commission and PTV to possibly begin a regular program of videotaped interviews of individuals in the area who could relate their personal histories.

Dray also updated the Commission regarding an oral history conference at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

#### **5. Community Preservation Historic Deed Restriction – Pilgrim Monument**

The CPC and Town Meeting voters at the April 3, 2006 Annual Town Meeting approved a funding request from the Pilgrim Monument and Provincetown Museum in the amount of \$58,500 for the restoration of the building and grounds. Concurrent with this grant, a deed restriction must be placed upon the property for the preservation and maintenance of the historical and architectural integrity of the structure. Dray noted that the proper procedure for the approval of the deed restriction would have been first to present the restriction to the Commission for approval and then forward the approved restriction to the Board of Selectmen for approval. In this case, the Selectmen approved the restriction prior to the Commission approval.

Polites moved to approve the deed restriction. Priolo seconded.

Vote: 4-0-0

#### **6. Approval of Minutes**

Burnell moved to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2007 meeting of the Commission. Dray seconded.

Vote: 4-0-0

## **7. Survey of Town Buildings**

Polites updated the Commission on the status of the Survey of Town Buildings. He distributed copies of the current Survey from 2004 on CD-ROM to members of the Commission. He noted that the most recent survey appeared to contain records that were updated only for their architectural description. He also reviewed the surveys completed in the late 1970's by Josephine Del Deo and the other survey completed by Tom Boland in 1993-4. While the two prior surveys were not comprehensive, Del Deo's focusing on the most important buildings in town and Boland's focusing on the best examples of particular styles or most in need of preservation efforts, Polites noted that the prior survey's contained completed historical and other information on the structures surveyed and, since the database is editable, should be integrated into the 2004 Survey. Polites believed a specific location would be required to upload the database, preferably online, to make it accessible to users. Burnell and Dray both believed manually updating the 2004 Survey with the data from the prior surveys would be the most efficient method of integrating the data. Dray recommended the discussion be continued to the next meeting when Beau Jackett of Town Hall MIS could be present to provide insight into the best method of establishing the database online and possible timelines for getting the work done.

Having no more business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

**Next Meeting: Friday, April 6, 2007 9:00 AM**

### **Action Items**

- Priolo to compile a master list of oral history recordings
- Burnell to contact John Dowd regarding old pictures of the gardens in front of the Provincetown Public Library
- Mulvey to return to Commission with information regarding window regulations in Historic Districts under the new Massachusetts building codes