

Provincetown Historical Commission
April 6, 2007
Minutes

Meeting called to order 9:00 AM

Members Present: Eric Dray, Austin Knight, Steven Milkewicz, Taylor Polites, Char Priolo

Members Absent: Polly Burnell (unexcused)

Also present: Peter McDonough

1. Approval of Agenda

Taylor Polites moved to approve the agenda for the meeting. Austin Knight seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0

2. Approval of Minutes

Polites moved to approve the minutes from the March 30, 2007 meeting of the Commission. Char Priolo seconded.

Vote: 4-0-0

3. Refurbishment of the Provincetown Public Library

Eric Dray updated the commission on the status of the Library restoration. Currently, there is adequate funding to restore the Library belfry, but no additional funds to restore the facade or gardens in front of the Library.

- Dray suggested, after the May election, to invite the new Library trustees to have a joint discussion with the Commission regarding fundraising opportunities to restore the façade and landscaping of the property.

4. Article 11 of the 2007 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Dray noted that any discussion of Article 11 would also involve Article 12. Dray updated the Commission on a discussion he had with DPW Director David Guertin where Guertin noted a sense of support on Article 11. Knight provided the Commission with copies of the interim Building Commissioner Matt Mulvey's report on the condition of the building. Mulvey emphasized that the building was not in danger of collapse nor did it require demolition and outlined a ten point plan of repair. An open discussion regarding the article ensued and Commission members noted their dissatisfaction with the wording of the article. In particular, members were concerned by the attachment of a Prop 2 ½ override to the article, and the use of the word repair in place of a more detailed summary of the current plan of refurbishment, including the construction of a comfort station on the ground floor and community housing in the rest of the building. Priolo in particular

noted her concern regarding the vagueness of the article.

Stephen Milkewicz moved that the Commission give conditional support to the article and produce a report for the Town Meeting giving support to any amendment that would clarify the article and stipulate reservations regarding its adaptive reuse. Knight seconded.

Vote: 5-0-0

Dray will draft the report.

5. Article 12 of the 2007 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Based on the discussion of Article 11, Commission members expressed their disappointment that an article that was defeated at Town Meeting six months ago would reappear on the warrant.

Knight moved to produce a report opposing the article. Polites seconded.

Vote: 5-0-0

Dray will draft the report.

6. Article 17 of the 2007 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

An open discussion ensued regarding the enhanced penalty provisions in the event of the unpermitted demolition of structures within the Historic District.

Polites moved to produce a report supporting the article. Priolo seconded.

Vote: 5-0-0

Dray will draft the report.

7. Candidate for Historical Commission Seat

The Commission met with Peter McDonough who has submitted an application for the available alternate seat on the Commission. McDonough described his background, history in Provincetown and his goals as a member of the Commission.

8. Article 9.2.C of the 2007 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Polites updated the Commission regarding the status of the Historic Preservation Project and the uses of the funding grant detailed in Article 9.2.C of the Town Meeting Warrant.

Polites moved to produce a report supporting the article. Priolo seconded.

Vote: 5-0-0

Polites will draft the report.

9. Article 9.2.D of the 2007 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Knight updated the Commission on the status of the CPC funding request related to the restoration of the Town Hall clock as it appears in Article 9.2.D of the Town Meeting Warrant.

Knight moved to produce a report in support of Article 9.2.D. Priolo seconded.

Vote: 5-0-0

Knight will draft the report.

10. ICON Streetscape Enhancement Plan

The Commission had an open discussion regarding the streetscape enhancement plan proposed by ICON and detailed recently in a presentation by that organization. The Commission reached consensus in support of the core fundamentals of the program to integrate historical and cultural stories into the landscape of the town to enhance the visitor experience and hopefully draw them back to this community. The Commission as a whole felt, however, that the branding impact and focus on the use of technology could detract from the authenticity of this community and its message. Ultimately, the best way of communicating the story of the culture and history of Provincetown is through the people who live in Provincetown. The Commission agreed that markers and artistic installations could help promote the visitor connection to the community, as long as it is based on connections to community artists. Additionally, the Commission would prefer to see fundamentals that currently detract from the visitor experience, like enhancing the pier experience in a traditional manner, at the forefront of these discussions rather than the promotion of new technologies.

Next Meeting: Friday, April 20, 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/Polites to look through town collection for images of library with gardens
- Mulvey to return to Commission with information regarding window regulations in Historic Districts under the new Massachusetts building codes
- Dray to arrange for joint meeting with the Library trustees after the election

- Polites to discuss technology alternatives for making the Survey of Town Buildings accessible and editable