

Provincetown Historical Commission
April 20, 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: Debra DeJonker-Berry, Stephen Desroches, David Guertin, Mick Rudd

1. Update on Library Restoration

Debra DeJonker-Berry, David Guertin and Mick Rudd came before the Commission to provide an update on the continuing restoration of the library building. DeJonker and Guertin had previously appeared before the Historic District Commission to gain approval for the restoration of the library belfry and were given a full approval by that board. They met with Campbell Construction a few days ago and described the process. The project is currently fully funded without the use of any public funds. The project will begin in the next several weeks and the expected completion is in six to ten weeks. The finial of the library will have to be replaced. In addition, access to the belfry has been guaranteed and the bell will be removed for restoration and hung in the belfry with an electronic ringing mechanism. If there are any excess funds, they will be used to hire an engineer to provide an assessment of the work required to restore the façade and a landscape architect to provide a design for the restoration of the gardens in front of the library.

Eric Dray requested that consideration be given to the other town buildings, such as Firehouse No. 2, the Old Library, etc., to ensure restoration projects move forward for them as well. Guertin suggested that a member of the Commission be appointed as an official liaison associated with the restoration of the belfry.

Austin Knight moved that Dray be appointed the Historical Commission's representative for the belfry restoration project. Char Priolo seconded.

Vote: 5-0-0

2. Approval of Agenda

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

Vote: 5-0-0

3. Approval of Minutes

Steven Milkewicz moved to approve the minutes from the April 4, 2007 meeting of the Commission with changes. Priolo seconded.

Vote: 5-0-0

4. Oral History Project

Priolo presented a report to the Commission summarizing her findings regarding the status of oral histories in Provincetown. Discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

5. Candidate for Historical Commission Seat

Stephen Desroches appeared before the Commission to discuss his interest in filling the alternate seat currently available. He described his background and his interest in historic preservation in the town.

6. Firehouse No. 2

Given the passage at Town Meeting of an article to finance the restoration of Firehouse No. 2, the article goes to the ballot on May 1st. Given the importance of the project, it was determined a letter to the editor in support of the article should be written to encourage voters to vote for the proposition.

Polites moved that a letter to the Banner be written in support of the proposition on the May 1st ballot. Knight seconded.

Vote: 4-0-0

Given that there was no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: Friday, May 4, 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