

Provincetown Historical Commission
July 27, 2007
Minutes

Meeting called to order 9:00 AM

Members Present: Stephen Borkowski, Polly Burnell, Steve Desroches, Eric Dray, Steven Milkewicz, Taylor Polites and Char Priolo

Also Present: Doug Johnstone

1. History Preservation Project

Doug Johnstone reported on the status of the History Preservation Project. The Historical Commission will over time assume greater responsibility related to the Project.

Johnstone and members of the Commission discussed areas where the Commission can further assist in establishing and working toward the Project's goals.

2. Approval of Agenda

Polly Burnell moved to approve the agenda. Stephen Borkowski seconded.

Vote: 5-0-0

3. Approval of Minutes

Borkowski provided additional information regarding the minutes. Burnell moved to approve the minutes. Borkowski seconded.

Vote: 5-0-0

4. Public Statements

There were no public statements.

5. Oral History Project

An open discussion of different initiatives related to the creation of an Oral History Project were discussed. The Commission discussed inviting PTV and the Cable Advisory Commission to a joint meeting with the Commission to discuss reinvigorating a videotaped oral history project.

6. Town Buildings

Eric Dray reported on a meeting with Town Manager Sharon Lynn where the status of the renovation of Town Hall was discussed. The creation of an oversight committee for the renovation process was also discussed.

No significant changes in the status of the Firehouse No. 2 renovation were reported.

The completion of the belfry project at the Library was also discussed as well as potential ways the Library Board of Trustees can continue with the renovation process.

- Char Priolo will draft a congratulatory letter to be printed in the Banner commending the Board of Trustees for their achievements and future goals related to the restoration of the Library.

The future of the Freeman Street Building (the former Library Building) was also discussed. Taylor Polites suggested that at least a portion of the space be dedicated to exhibiting the town's art and archive collection. Other collaborative uses were suggested involving the potential construction of a visitor center or welcome station in the building to enhance the visitor experience in Provincetown.

7. Murchison House

Further information regarding the future of the Murchison House was unknown. To bring awareness about the history and importance of the building, Dray suggested submitting an application to Preservation Massachusetts to nominate the building for the Top 10 Most Endangered Historic Places in Massachusetts. The Commission agreed and asked Dray to pursue the idea.

8. History Summit

Dray reported that he had discussed the idea of a history summit to some members of the community, including Town Manager Sharon Lynn and Banner publisher Alix Ritchie. Desroches also said he had spoken to the Tourism Director, Bill Schneider about the idea. A date in mid-November was agreed upon and a potential moderator was suggested, Catherine Rafter.

- Desroches agreed to contact Rafter to discuss the possibility of moderating the History Summit.

9. New Business

Dray informed the Commission of efforts by the Visitor Services Board to develop an historic brochure for Provincetown along the lines of the Historic Deerfield brochure. Milkewicz was asked to attend VSB meetings and act as a liaison to the VSB regarding the development of the brochure.

There being no more business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: Friday, August 17, 2007 9:00 AM

Action Items

- Priolo will begin collecting detailed information on the existing oral histories to create

an inventory of them.

- Dray will discuss status of Town Hall with David Guertin and what level of rehabilitation is needed to correct current issues so the Commission has a better understanding of the situation.
- Johnson stated she would make an effort to inventory her oral histories. Burnell offered to assist her in this inventory.
- Burnell stated that she will bring in a list of names to begin an effort to identify individuals who should be interviewed on a priority basis.
- Dray also noted that he wanted to convene a joint meeting between the HC and the Historic Distric Commission to discuss ways to help the HDC in their work.
- Desroches agreed to contact Rafter to discuss the possibility of moderating the History Summit.
- Char Priolo will draft a congratulatory letter to be printed in the Banner commending the Board of Trustees for their achievements and future goals related to the restoration of the Library.