

**Provincetown Historical Commission**  
**August 31, 2007**  
**Minutes**

Meeting called to order 9:00 AM

Members Present: Stephen Borkowski, Steve Desroches, Eric Dray, Taylor Polites and Char Priolo

Members Absent: Polly Burnell (unexcused), Steven Milkewicz (unexcused)

Also Present: Doug Johnstone, Carol Pugliese

**1. Motion to Reorder Agenda**

Given the presence of Carol Pugliese, the chair of the Cable Advisory Commission, Dray moved to discuss the PTV agenda item first. Polites seconded.

Vote: 4-0-0

**2. Oral History Project/PTV**

Pugliese introduced herself and updated the Commission regarding the current status of the Cable Advisory Commission and PTV. She stated that PTV could provide volunteers with technical expertise to assist in the Oral History Project as well as train volunteers interested in working on the OHP. She suggested the Commission be the “producers” of the recorded interviews. She detailed the resources available to the Commission and the OHP, including the studio and editing facilities as well as equipment such as cameras, lights, and tripods. She suggested the recordings would be a great addition to the PTV produced shows available currently on Channel 17. Training sessions could be done in groups or on an as needed basis. She suggested members of the Commission come to the Open House currently planned for September to view the PTV facilities. Additional information can be requested from Beth O'Rourke, the new director of PTV, at [borourke@provincetown-ma.gov](mailto:borourke@provincetown-ma.gov) or at 508-487-0648.

**3. Approve Agenda**

Polites moved to approve the agenda. Desroches seconded.

Vote: 5-0-0

**3. Approval of Minutes-July 27, 2007**

Borkowski moved to approve the minutes of July 27, 2007. Priolo seconded.

Vote: 5-0-0

**4. Approval of Minutes-August 17, 2007**

Priolo moved to approve the minutes from August 17, 2007. Borkowski seconded.

Vote: 4-0-0

## **5. Public Statements**

There were no public statements.

## **6. Oral History Project**

An open discussion of different initiatives related to the creation of an Oral History Project were discussed. It was reiterated that a key person needs to be selected to drive the OHP. Desroches volunteered to be the lead on the OHP. In addition, a full inventory and efforts to place copies of all extant recordings at the Library were also mentioned as initial goals of the OHP. It was noted that future recordings and current recordings that become digitized would be placed on the History Preservation Project website.

Dray moved to recognize two subcommittees of the Commission. A History Preservation Project subcommittee would include Borkowski and Polites. An Oral History Project subcommittee would include Priolo and Desroches. Priolo seconded.

Vote: 5-0-0

## **7. Town Hall**

Dray updated the Commission regarding the assessment for renovations to Town Hall. Seven Requests for Qualifications were received and under review by the board assembled to oversee the renovation of the building. These RFQ's would ultimately lead to a Request for Proposals coming from the town administration and include estimates for the cost of renovations.

## **8. Library Building**

Mick Rudd, chair of the Library Board of Trustees, and Debra DeJonker-Berry, director of the Library, appeared before the Commission to discuss the ongoing renovation of the Library. Rudd updated the Commission on goals achieved to date and future plans for the continued renovation of the exterior of the Library and landscaping of the grounds. Dray noted with disappointment the change to the structure due to the lead-coated collar on which the belfry sits. He stated this did not conform to the original placement of the belfry and would be extremely difficult to mitigate. He stressed the importance of keeping the Commission involved in ongoing development and planning for the renovation of the library as well as the maintenance of clear lines of communication to avoid future inconsistencies in the renovation of the historic building. DeJonker-Berry expressed her frustration with the lack of technical expertise available to the Library Board of Trustees and agreed that additional participation from a variety of sources would help to ensure an appropriate and successful renovation of the building.

DeJonker-Berry also detailed the different fundraising arms available to the Library in an open discussion regarding future fundraising opportunities. Borkowski and Priolo commended the Library Trustees on the great accomplishments they have achieved and

encouraged them to seek out additional assistance for future projects, including organizing a 501(c)3, resurrecting the Supporters of the Library, already a 501(c)3 and reaching out to the Historic District Commission, the Historical Commission and the Board of Selectmen for ongoing guidance related to the renovation.

- It was agreed that Dray would begin attending Library Board of Trustees meetings to keep the Commission apprised of the renovation's progress.
- DeJonker-Berry stated that she will contact Coastal Engineering to get an assessment on repairs, the new facade, landscaping, and mitigation of the collar and belfry and return to the Commission with costs and timing. She will forward her request via email to Dray before sending to Coastal Engineering.

## **9. Murchison House**

A discussion of the current status of the Murchison House included reports on the clear cutting of the property, its current status on the open market and its possible future. Desroches reported that efforts to preserve the “Hopper landscape” in Truro resulted in the plans to construct a home on the property being referred to the Cape Cod Commission for review.

- Dray said that he will contact the CCC to discuss options to ensure the preservation of the Murchison House.

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

**Next Meeting: Friday, September 21, 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.
- It was agreed that Dray would begin attending Library Board of Trustees meetings to keep the Commission apprised of the renovation's progress.
- DeJonker-Berry stated that she will contact Coastal Engineering to get an assessment on repairs, the new facade, landscaping, and mitigation of the collar and belfry and return to the Commission with costs and timing. She will forward her request via email to Dray before sending to Coastal Engineering.
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