

Provincetown Historical Commission
September 21, 2007
DRAFT Minutes

Meeting called to order 9:00 AM

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

Members Absent: Polly Burnell (unexcused)

Also Present: Doug Johnstone

1. Approval of Agenda

Priolo moved to approve the agenda. Borkowski seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0

2. Approval of Minutes

Desroches made a motion to approve the minutes of August 31, 2007 as amended. Priolo seconded.

Vote: 5-0-0

3. Public Statements

There were no public statements.

4. Oral History Project

Desroches updated the Commission on the Oral History Project, noting he and Priolo were scheduled to meet in the near future to discuss the structure of the Project. Borkowski related to the Commission that a private individual may be willing to contribute to the financing of the project.

Desroches said the next step is to find an individual to oversee the collection as it is compiled. The OHP subcommittee will produce a management plan and present it to the Commission in the near future.

5. Town Buildings

Dray updated the Commission on the status of the Town Hall renovation. He said the Historical Commission's role would be to advocate on behalf of the renovation and maintenance of town-owned buildings.

Dray also updated the Commission on a recent meeting with the Library Board of Trustees. Debra DeJonker-Berry is discussing a way to mitigate the issues posed by the installation of a collar at the base of the library belfry. He believes the Board of Trustees will work together with representatives of the Historical Commission to ensure

appropriate restoration of the Library building.

In addition, Dray updated the Commission regarding the renovation of sidewalks along Commercial Street. He has spoken with several of the constituencies involved in the refurbishment of the sidewalk and explained that brick pavers, if properly installed, are consistent with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and would maintain a consistent historic context for the visitor experience on Commercial Street. Dray further emphasized that brick sidewalks are easier to maintain and repair than concrete or asphalt sidewalks.

6. History Summit

Members of the Commission engaged in an open discussion of the goals and timing of a History Summit. It was noted there was an Economic/Business Summit on October 18th and that the Historical Commission should make an effort to be represented at the Summit to promote the importance of historic preservation to the business community and visitor experience in Provincetown. Dray stated he would pursue the organizers of the Summit for an agenda and to see if there were opportunities for the Commission to participate in the event.

Desroches and Polites agreed to meet and begin to detail the scale and scope of a History Summit. They will report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

7. Murchison house

Dray reported that he contacted the Cape Cod Commission and the Massachusetts Historical Commission regarding the fate of the Murchison House. A draft survey form to have the structure listed on the National Register of Historic Places was in existence and Dray was working to provide a copy of the survey form to the Commission. Pursuant to his discussions with the CCC and MHC, Dray believes if a survey form along with any relevant additional information regarding the Murchison House is submitted to the MHC, they will make a provisory decision regarding the status of the structure as a historic structure, thus enabling the participation of the CCC in the fate of the Murchison House.

Polites agreed to search the archives of the History Preservation Project and contact the Pilgrim Monument to acquire as much supporting documentation regarding the historic importance of the house as possible.

Vote: 5-0-0

8. Historical Commission representative to the Community Preservation Committee

Milkewicz offered to resign his seat on the CPC from the Open Space Committee in order to be appointed the Commission representative to the CPC.

Desroches moved to appoint Milkewicz as the Commission representative to the CPC. Borkowski seconded.

Vote: 5-0-0

9. New Business

Dray opened a discussion of the management and development of the Route 6 viewscape into Provincetown, given the recent transfer of ownership of the easement from the state government to the town government. He reiterated the importance of the Commission remaining involved and vigilant regarding future uses of this viewshed.

Polites discussed the possibility of collaborating with the Historic District Commission regarding the proactive assembly of a catalogue of recommended standards and best practices related to historic preservation in Provincetown. In particular, Polites noted that there were many images collected in the town archives that could be useful in beginning an accessible catalogue of best practices for members of the community. Polites agreed to bring images of different street lamps used in the past for discussion by the Commission.

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

Next Meeting: Friday, October 5, 2007 9:00 AM

Action Items

- Priolo will begin collecting detailed information on the existing oral histories to create an inventory of them.
- 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 District 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.
- Polites agreed to bring images of different street lamps used in the past for discussion by the Commission.
- Polites agreed to search the archives of the History Preservation Project and contact the Pilgrim Monument to acquire as much supporting documentation regarding the historic importance of the house as possible.
- Desroches and Polites agreed to meet and begin to detail the scale and scope of a History Summit. They will report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

- Dray stated he would pursue the organizers of the Summit for an agenda and to see if there were opportunities for the Commission to participate in the event.
- The OHP subcommittee will produce a management plan and present it to the Commission in the near future.