

Provincetown Historical Commission
October 5, 2007
Minutes

Meeting called to order 9:00 AM

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

Also Present: Doug Johnstone

1. Approval of Agenda

Burnell moved to approve the agenda. Milkewicz seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0

2. Approval of Minutes

Priolo made a motion to approve the minutes of September 21, 2007. Burnell seconded.

Vote: 4-0-0

3. Public Statements

There were no public statements.

4. Oral History Project

Desroches reported that he and Priolo were scheduled to meet in mid-October to discuss the structure of the OHP. Polites reported that he had the opportunity to sit with Jeanne Bultman to record some of her stories of life in Provincetown in the 1940's and would provide that recording to the OHP.

5. History Preservation Project

Johnstone updated the Commission regarding the History Preservation Project. He stated that the website was currently being designed, a server was acquired for the images and website, that progress continued to be made regarding the cataloguing of documents in preparation for loading to the website and that construction had begun on the Josephine C. Del Deo Archive in the basement of the Public Library.

6. Town Buildings

Dray updated the Commission regarding the town-owned historic properties. A review of the Request for Qualifications for the Town Hall renovation was under way. A Request for Proposals was being designed by Debra DeJonker-Berry for the rehabilitation of the facade and landscaping of the Public Library.

Burnell reported that the Historic District Commission had reviewed the three plans

currently under consideration for the renovation of Firehouse No. 2, including an affordable housing unit, a dormitory for summer police officers, and office space. She reported that the HDC preferred the affordable housing unit, as it would least alter the current historic aspect of the structure. Additional information would be available after the next Board of Selectmen meeting scheduled for October 9th.

7. History Summit

Desroches reported to the Commission regarding work being done to plan a History Summit. Polites and Desroches had developed a list of ideas to open discussions in the Commission and requested agenda items be included for the next meeting related to the goals and format of the Summit. Polites will circulate the presentation to Commission members to facilitate discussion at the next meeting.

8. Murchison House

Dray reported he was still waiting to receive the assessment form related to the Murchison House to submit to the Massachusetts Historical Commission to enable them to make a preliminary determination of eligibility of the house. Polites agreed to produce PDF's of historical documentation regarding the house to submit with the assessment form.

9. New Business

Dray updated the Commission on discussions regarding the re-paving of Commercial Street. He reported that there were many public hearings planned to discuss the repaving and the Commission could address any concerns at that time.

Polites provided the Commission with historic images of Provincetown including street lamps. He suggested the Commission, in conjunction with the HDC, begin documenting best practices to be used as a guide for community members.

The need for a joint meeting with the HDC was also discussed. Burnell said she would discuss the issue with other members of the HDC and propose a convenient time for the two Commissions to meet.

Johnstone presented the Commission with the opportunity to accession documents related to the establishment of the new Provincetown Theater. Tim McCarthy will be providing him with a letter describing the contents of the archive to enable the Commission to discuss the appropriateness of accessioning these materials. Polites agreed to contact other communities to find out their accessioning processes.

Milkewicz mentioned an article in the Banner regarding the Chico-Jess, a wooden dragger currently working out of Provincetown Harbor. He expressed his regret to lose a boat that represents such an important part of the community's heritage. Members agreed and Desroches said he would contact the Harbor Master, Rex McKinsey, to encourage consideration of acquiring the boat as a historical artifact. Dray agreed but also expressed concern over the amount of money and maintenance it would take to preserve a boat in

the harbor.

In addition, Steven Jerome, who did not address the Commission during Public Statements, was encouraged to make a comment. He told the Commission that Jay Critchley was auctioning the Beige Motel, a 1950's motel structure in North Truro, and that it would very likely end up in Provincetown. He requested the Commission give the importance of such a structure some consideration.

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

Next Meeting: Friday, October 19, 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 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.
- 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.
- Polites agreed to contact other communities to check on policies for accessioning artifacts to municipal archives.