

Provincetown Historical Commission
November 2, 2007
Minutes

Meeting called to order 9:00 AM

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

Members Absent: Steven Milkewicz (excused?)

Also Present: Doug Johnstone, Sandie Turner

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 October 19, 2007. Priolo seconded.

Vote: 5-0-0

3. Public Statements

There were no public statements.

4. Commercial Street Renovation Project

Sandie Turner presented information regarding the current scope of the Commercial Street renovation project being led by the Department of Public Works and the engineers, Stearns & Wheeler. She reported that there were discussions to reduce the amount being requested of the upcoming Special Town Meeting based on opposition to the sum up to \$566,000 as currently written in the Special Town Meeting Warrant. She related a reduction could mean a reduction in the scope of the project, perhaps from Johnson to Court Streets rather than Howland Street to the "Turn".

Polly Burnell joined the meeting.

Dray stated that it was important for all parties during the planning stages to keep the Historical Commission and the Historic District Commission involved and aware, since the HDC would have to approve any streetscape improvements incorporated into the renovation plan.

Desroches also noted that reducing the amount available to finance the planning of the renovation could also mean a reduction in options available to the community for an historically accurate and integrated redesign.

Priolo stated the importance of education in advance of the decision making process.

Turner left the meeting.

Polites, Desroches and Johnstone spoke in support of the article as written.

Desroches moved to make the following statement in support of the article as written on the floor of town meeting:

Commercial Street is not only Provincetown's main street, it is its most historic street. Any renovation and reconstruction of this street will have an enormous impact on the integrity of its historic aspect and thus the visitor experience in our community. The Historical Commission supports this warrant article as written to fully explore and assess our community's options in this most critical of public construction projects.

Borkowski seconded.

Vote: 5-0-0

5. History Summit Planning

An open discussion followed regarding the updated discussion points as developed by Desroches and Polites. Desroches and Polites returned with an updated draft. Desroches suggested that it was important to reach out to history/historic preservation “stakeholders” in the community. Dray made amendments to the “Goal” and there was an open discussion of the language to be used.

Desroches moved that the HC approve the “Goals” as amended. Polites seconded.

Vote: 5-0-0

Desroches further suggested that individual members of the HC reach out to those stakeholders and request their viewpoint regarding a History Summit. It was agreed the following individuals would contact the following institutions.

Pilgrim Monument and Provincetown Museum
Provincetown Public Library
Provincetown Art Association and Museum
Cape Cod National Seashore
Historic District Commission
King Hiram's Lodge
Unitarian-Universalist Church

Doug Johnstone
Taylor M. Polites
Eric Dray
Steve Desroches
Polly Burnell
Steve Milkewicz
Char Priolo

6. Acquisition Policy and Donation Request-Town Archives

Dray reported that he would post a request on the Massachusetts Historical Commission listserv regarding communities with acquisition policies to serve as a model for the HC's

efforts to determine an acquisition policy for the Town of Provincetown.

Dray also reported that he would review the documents that the Provincetown Theater would like to donate to the Town.

7. Budget Planning

Johnstone reported that he would be including an item on the agenda for the next meeting related to Budget Planning. He noted that the HC did not currently have a budget, but given its increasing responsibilities related to acquisitions and the History Preservation Project and website, it would be necessary to develop a budget on a going forward basis.

Borkowski also reported that since the images and information currently maintained on the Town website were being migrated to the HPP website, he would be transferring those budget line items to the HC.

8. Joint Meeting with Historic District Commission

Burnell reported that she understood the November 7th meeting of the HDC was cancelled. She said she would check with Maxine Notaro and confirm back to the HC.

9. Murchison House

Dray reported that the Form B for the Murchison House had been submitted and he hoped the Massachusetts Historical Commission would review the submission within the next two to four weeks.

10. New Business

Johnstone reported that the HPP had received a donation of approximately \$10,000 from the Friends of the Heritage Museum Contribution Fund to purchase archival shelving for use in the Josephine C. Del Deo Archive being constructed in the basement of the Public Library.

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

Next Meeting: Friday, November 30, 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.
- The OHP subcommittee will produce a management plan and present it to the Commission in the near future.