

Provincetown Historical Commission
November 30, 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: Lisa Bowden, Doug Johnstone

1. Approval of Agenda

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

Vote: 5-0-0

2. Approval of Minutes

Burnell made a motion to approve the minutes of November 2 and November 7, 2007.
Borkowski seconded.

Vote: 5-0-0

3. Public Statements

Lisa Bowden, newly hired Tourism Director and former Cultural Coordinator for the Town of Provincetown, came before the Commission to discuss the Historic Walking Trail Project. Bowden related that in 2003 the Visitor Services Board presented a warrant article at Town Meeting to finance the project, which was passed by voters. Since then, there have been various efforts to launch the Project and at this time, Bowden is tasked with pursuing and developing the Project. She requested the Commission's guidance and assistance in helping the Project to move forward.

Priolo joined the meeting.

She noted that the VSB was leading the Project and funds were available to design and publish an approximately one page, double-sided glossy pamphlet promoting the historic aspects of Provincetown.

Johnstone noted that this was an ideal Project for the Commission to participate in to both have an impact on the discussion of history and historic preservation in the community and to emphasize the presence and value of the Commission.

Bowden agreed to keep members of the Commission copied on meeting schedules where the project will be discussed.

4. History Summit Planning

Polites began the discussion by noting that at the previous meeting members had agreed to approach stakeholders in the community regarding their interest in participating in a proposed History Summit. Polites reported that Debra DeJonker-Berry, Library Director, and Lyn Kratz, member of the Library Board of Trustees, both viewed the Summit as a valuable opportunity to bring community members together to discuss common challenges. DeJonker-Berry also proposed the Summit be held on Heritage Day and could also be held at the Library. She also offered to contact Stephan Norfeldt, former Town Clerk, as a potential moderator. Polites also reported having a discussion with Margaret Murphy, Executive Director of the Fine Arts Work Center, and Gigi Ledkovsky, its Communications Director, regarding the Summit. He reported both expressed strong interest and enthusiasm for the event.

Johnstone reported that Jim Bakker, Executive Director of the Pilgrim Monument and Provincetown Museum expressed some reserve regarding the content and value of such an event, stating that he would prefer to hear more about the details and he hoped that it would bring some value to its participants.

Milkewicz reported that Rex McKinsey, Grand Master of King Hiram's Lodge, also expressed strong support and offered to house the event at the Lodge.

Dray reported that Chris McCarthy, Executive Director of the Provincetown Art Association and Museum, was on board. Desroches reported that Sue Moynihan, Cultural Coordinator for the Cape Cod National Seashore would attend. Burnell reported that the Historic District Commission would attend. Priolo reported that the Unitarian-Universalist Church would attend.

Based on the strong level of interest in the community, Commission members agreed to pursue a History Summit and tabled further discussion until the next meeting.

5. Acquisition Policy and Donation Request-Town Archives

Dray reported that there had been no response to his list serve request. Polites suggested other models existed, for example the Art Commission or the PMPM. Dray asked to see a copy of the PMPM acquisition policy. Borkowski agreed to bring a copy of the PAAM and PMPM acquisition policies to the next meeting.

Dray, Johnstone and Borkowski agreed to do a detailed review of the documents from the Provincetown Theater being offered by Tim McCarthy.

6. Budget – FY 2009

Johnstone presented last year's Commission budget and the proposed budget for FY 2009, which currently stands at \$500 for Secretarial Assistance.

Dray moved to reclassify the amount of \$500 from its current line-item to Publishing/Printing (from 52102 to 52600) and to level fund the Commission budget for FY 2009.

Burnell seconded.

Vote: 5-0-0

7. Joint Meeting with Historic District Commission

An open discussion ensued regarding the benefits of the recent joint meeting with the HDC. Burnell stressed the importance of creating a style guidelines book for homeowners and contractors engaged in renovations within the historic district.

Dray offered to begin drafting a policy and to work with the HDC.

8. New Businesses

Polites reported that the Fine Arts Work Center requested an opportunity to come before the Commission to discuss their renovation project related to the historic Days Lumber Yard and ask for the Commission's support in their applications to the HDC and the Community Preservation Committee. Members of the FAWC would appear before the Commission December 14th.

Dray reported that the Massachusetts Historical Commission had determined that the Murchison House was eligible for designation as an historic landmark. Dray offered to show the Form B to Rose Kennedy who is representing the house for Thomas D. Brown Real Estate.

Desroches reported that at the last Board of Selectmen Meeting it had been decided that staff of the town will oversee the renovation of Town Hall rather than a building committee. Selectman Austin Knight stated that the Historical Commission should be involved. He also reported that someone had discussed the plan for use of the Old Library at Freeman Street.

Milkewicz confirmed the CCNS had used traditional 6 over 6 windows for their renovation of the Race Point Ranger Station.

The sale of Fisherman's Wharf (Sklaroff's) was discussed.

Borkowski reported that the Boston Public Library had received an important grant from

the “Save America's Treasures” program to preserve its map collection, suggesting a similar grant could fund the preservation of the Town Archives.

Next Meeting: Friday, December 14, 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.
 - Borkowski will bring copies of the Acquisition Policies from the PMPM and PAAM.