

Provincetown Historical Commission
February 8, 2008
Minutes

Meeting called to order 9:00 AM

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

Members Absent: Stephen Borkowski (excused)

Also Present: Debra DeJonker-Berry

1. Approval of Agenda

Polites moved to approve the agenda.

Milkewicz seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0-0

2. Approval of Minutes of January 25, 2008

There not being a quorum among attendees of the prior meeting, the approval of the minutes was tabled until the later arrival of members who could constitute a quorum.

3. Public Statements

Priolo joined the meeting.

There were no public statements.

Burnell joined the meeting.

4. History Summit

Members discussed the planning for a proposed History Summit.

Desroches stated he believed there might not be a need for a moderator for the History Summit, so he had not previously contacted Katherine Rafter to discuss the opportunity. Polites stated that he believed regardless of the size of the event, a moderator would be helpful in focusing the dialogue and managing the event. It was agreed that Desroches would contact Rafter and discuss the potential costs involved. A tentative date sometime in June was agreed.

5. Murchison House

Dray updated the Commission regarding his discussion with Rose Kennedy, a member of the real estate firm Thomas D. Brown who is representing the sale of the property. Dray reported that Kennedy provided him with a tour of the property. He stated that Kennedy was pleased with the nomination eligibility determination given by the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Dray also said that there was an effort to sell the furniture, which Dray discouraged given that it was designed for the house and its sale could potentially adversely impact the attractiveness of the property by prospective purchasers.

6. Provincetown Public Library

Debra DeJonker-Berry appeared before the Commission to discuss the status of the Library rehabilitation project. She reported that Coastal Engineering was working on an assessment of the work for the facade restoration. She also stated that financing for the project was becoming available. She reported having a balance of \$170,000 currently to finance the project and there is also a good chance the Library will receive a grant of an undisclosed sum from the MHC Preservation Projects Fund. In addition, an application to the Community Preservation Committee had been submitted requesting an amount of \$100,000. She came before the Commission to seek its support of the applications to both the MHC and CPC.

DeJonker-Berry also reported that funds of \$100,000 were made available to the Library to finance the restoration of the landscaping after the restoration of the facade was complete.

Dray offered to draft a letter of support for the applications. Polites noted that the opportunity to provide a letter of support to the FAWC for its CPC application had been declined, and if there was a letter written in support of the Library CPC application, one should be drafted and submitted on behalf of the FAWC as well.

Polites moved that the Commission write a letter in support of the application to the MHC Preservation Projects Fund. Priolo seconded.

Vote: 5-0-0

DeJonker-Berry also noted that there was an opening on the Library Board of Trustees and she encouraged individuals with historic preservation experience to join.

She also noted that the Library was looking for grants to finance a staff position to focus on oral histories. She also reported that the Library Board of Trustees were planning on using oral histories as a major component of the celebration of Heritage Day 2009, which would focus on the AIDS epidemic in Provincetown.

7. Town Archives Draft Acquisition Policy

Polites presented members with a draft Acquisition Policy to assist in the acceptance and management of archival materials in the Town Collection. He requested the Commission review the document and return any comments to him.

8. Approval of Minutes of January 25, 2008

There being a quorum present of members who attended the prior meeting of January 25, 2008, Milkewicz moved to approve the minutes.

Priolo seconded.

Vote: 3-0-0

9. Elections

The Commission agreed to nominate and elect a Vice Chair and Clerk.

Desroches moved to appoint Priolo as Clerk.

Burnell seconded.

Vote: 5-0-0

Burnell moved to appoint Polites Vice Chair.

Dray seconded.

Vote: 5-0-0

10. Historic Walking Tour

Polites referred to the prior minutes to provide an update of the planning for a Historic Walking Tour brochure.

11. Captain Jack's Wharf

Members reported reconstruction work on the wharf at Captain Jack's Wharf. Dray noted that replacement of original piers with more modern materials would impact the historic aspect of the Wharf. He encouraged members of the Historic District Commission to review the renovation in detail.

12. Town Hall Renovation

Dray briefly discussed the report issued by the team of architects currently engaged in the

study for the renovation and repair of Town Hall. Polites referred to the prior minutes to update the Commission on the action taken by the Board of Selectmen at the last hearing.

13. Memorial of Fire of February 10, 1998

Priolo updated the Commission regarding the event commemorating the fire of February 10, 1998 and the oral history component of the event.

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

Next Meeting: Friday, February 22, 2008 9:00 AM

Action Items

- 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.
- 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.