

**Minutes Gloucester Historical Commission  
Monday, January 28, 2019 6:30 PM City Hall,  
3rd floor conference room 9 Dale Ave. Gloucester, MA 01930**

**Present:** Mary Ellen Lepionka, Bill Remsen, Jude Seminara, Sandy Barry, David Rhineland  
**Absent:** Bob Whitmarsh **Guests:** Val Gilman, Jill Cahill, J.D. MacEachern, David Benjamin,  
David Dow, Susan Morreale, David Pleuler, Daryl Jackson, Jeff Brown

Meeting called to order at 6:30

**I. Acceptance of the October 29 and November 26 Minutes** Mary Ellen motioned to accept the minutes of October 29. Jude seconded. All in favor. Minutes of November were shared late. Voting postponed until February meeting.

**II. Status update -- Dogtown NRHP/Planning Board meeting** Mary Ellen indicated that the Dogtown NRHP nomination is on hold. She reported back that the Planning Board meeting attended by her and Bill on January 17 was less than favorable. Bill remarked that Dogtown won't maintain itself. Mr. Jackson and Mr. Brown were vocal opponents to the NRHP nomination. Mr. Jackson indicated that volunteers maintain Dogtown. Jill Cahill indicated that the City has no problem with the NR designation, but the City wants the process to be clarified. Councilor Gilman hopes that the process can be clarified, and hopes that a meeting can be held with all parties involved. Jude suggested the GHC gets the City Council clarified on the NRHP process so they can dispel any confusion among the public. Councilor Gillman stated that the concern with the NRHP nomination is not the nomination per se, but the procedural process issues. Discussion ensued about getting public involvement in NRHP nominations from a process point of view.

**III. Outcomes of December 5 meeting** Discussion of Legal Dept.'s new interpretation of the GHC charter Chapter 40 Section 8D. This interpretation places all GHC activities under the control of the City Council, which is contrary to the intended role and function of historical commissions.

**IV. Discussion of remaining CLG status** Mary Ellen shared summary of CLG requirements. CLG status is necessary to apply for MPPF capital grants. The GHC has not had City cooperation in past efforts to get MPPF grants. CLG members need to meet state standards for qualifications. We have not been able to fill vacancies with people possessing these qualifications. CLGs are supposed to include both the Historic District Commission and the Historical Commission, and the HDC is not interested in participating. Also CLGs are required to participate in the National Register program, which the City does not want. Jude motioned to drop CLG status. Bill seconded. All in favor of dropping CLG status.

**V. Stage Fort Park** Mary Ellen had phone conversation with Barbara Silverman and Will Stein re: SFP cannons. CPC contacted Clemson restoration team. Clemson made recommendations for restoration. A plan is needed for upkeep. Jude indicated that this is no longer a matter of historical preservation. David Dow has USS Constitution plans for cannon carriages. Bill said that the spirit of design is allowable as long as newer materials are better than originals. Jude asked about the impact of modifying the fort's ground to prevent the cannons from rolling. Discussion about modifying the Parrott Rifle. Jude asked for assurance that it would not damage an authentic Civil War cannon. David Dow said the Parrott Rifle is a replica. David also indicated that everything is reversible.

Mary Ellen motioned to recommend to the CPC to release the funds to the SFP committee for the cannon restoration. Bill seconded. Mary Ellen, Bill, David in favor. Jude and Sandy oppose. Motion carried. The GHC will recommend to the CPC to release the funds in support of SFP committee's cannon restoration.

**VI. Report on recent losses** 194 Hesperus -- on MACRIS (GLO.1183) 4 Stewart Ave. -- Lillian Olmstead notified Mary Ellen about this. 5 Clarendon demolished. 28 Leonard St. demolished. Mary Ellen suggested we get photos of the houses replacing the demolished properties to include in the Demo Review slideshow.

**VII. New business not on the Agenda** Railroad Bridge photo documentation given to the GHC. CAM and Archives will get a copy.

All other matters will be moved to February's agenda.

Jude motioned to adjourn. Bill seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:48.

The next GHC meeting will be held at 6:30 on February 25 in the 3rd floor conference room of City Hall.

Respectfully submitted, Jude Seminara