

Minutes

Gloucester Historical Commission August 26, 2019, 6:30 PM

City Hall, 3rd Fl.

Present: Bob Whitmarsh, Bill Remsen, Jude Seminara, Sandy Barry
Absent: Dave Rhineland

Guests: Lillian Olmsted, Susan Morreale

Call to order at 6:30 PM

I. Minutes of July GHC meeting

Bill motioned to accept the minutes of the July meeting. Sandy seconded. All voted in favor.

II. Reorganization and Recruitment

Sandy Barry is now a full member. Susan is attending O&A on Sept. 16. Lillian is not officially on the Commission yet.

There was some discussion around timing for the meetings. They tend to run long, so limiting the time to 8:00 at the latest might be beneficial.

III. Podcasts

Discussion of topics for 1623 Studios podcasts. Sandy will reach out to Kory Curcuro to schedule a podcast for October. We will shoot for October 25. Jude is developing a bank of topics and sketching outlines/frameworks for them.

Jude will liaison with the 400th heritage committee.

IV. Stage Fort Park archaeology

Bill talked to David Starbuck from UNH Plymouth, who specializes in military fortifications.

The city wants to begin work at Stage Fort Park – work will likely begin in the spring. Bill can contact Boston University to see if there is more of a generalist. Cost is an issue. Jude asked if we knew of the OPW's plan so we can target investigations to areas which are going to be disturbed. SFPAC applied for an off cycle grant to develop a plan. Moving forward, the GHC, Mike Hale, and David Dow should meet to discuss planning.

V. Land Marks publication committee

The GHC is unclear what direction Land Marks is heading. Discussion was held about different formats for the publication. The goal of the project is twofold: document these properties and increase awareness of the need for preservation in the community. The Commission reviewed the 2016 quote for Land Marks. The Land Marks committee consists of David, and he is soon to be joined by Susan and Lilian.

VI. Certified Local Government report

Bob hasn't contacted David Porper of the HOC yet. We need information from them to complete the report. To maintain CLG status, we need to have one joint meeting. The HOC as a body has not expressed interest in CLG status. It is best if the GHC attends one of the HOC meetings, since the HOC doesn't meet regularly. The deadline for the report is the end of August. Sandy is workin' on the report, and Bob will contact the MHC and David Porper.

VII. Community Preservation Committee

A. Stage Fort Park Committee is applying for an off-cycle grant. Is a letter required from the GHC? The grant is for refurbishing the foot path from the visitor center to the fort. The GHC has not seen a plan for this work. There is a strong possibility that there is culturally significant material below the surface of the park. This is of particular interest, especially if the new path does not conform to the footprint of the old one, or if additional paths are being installed.

Jude will email David Dow and CC Bill.

B. Maritime Gloucester has an application filed for work on the railways.

C. Hammond Castle applied for a grant to do repairs to the atrium.

D. Beauport applied for a grant to repair a window.

E. Magnolia Historical Society applied for a grant to do work on their property.

F. The YMCA has applications for Camp Spindrift and a pool at their Gloucester Crossing site.

G. Ocean Alliance has an application for work at the Tarr and Wonson Paint Factory.

H. There is an application for Stage Fort Park to turn the basketball courts into a street hockey court.

Sandy motioned to adjourn. Bill seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM.

The next meeting of the Gloucester Historical Commission will be held at 6:30 on September 30, 2019 in the third floor conference room at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Jude Seminara