

Gloucester Historical Commission
Minutes of Meeting
City Hall
November 24, 2014, 6:30 p.m.

Present: David Rhineland, Mary Ellen Lepionka, Bob Whitmarsh, Tom O'Keefe, Amanda Nash

Guests: Jacqueline Jameison regarding Meetinghouse Green

1. Minutes

Minutes for the October meeting were reviewed and accepted with a few clarifications.

2. Continuing Business

National Register listings

Mary Ellen and Amanda reported that we had met with Phil Bergen at the MHC and had a thorough coaching on how the process of getting things listed in the National Register works. We also met briefly with Chris Skelly.

We discussed the issues of Annisquam being listed as an area and how things had gone awry last time this was attempted. Mary Ellen felt that the problem was that the NR district and the local historic district were proposed at the same time, and people didn't really understand the distinction and so just dug in their heels about the whole thing.

Mary Ellen collected the files on the areas that have uncompleted listings. She said the photos of Annisquam are amazing.

Certified Local Government

In order to re-establish this, we will need to file an annual report. This is one report filed jointly by the two commissions (GHC and LHDC).

Update since meeting: I spoke to Nancy Goodick, who is on the HDC. She is the newest person on the commission and she felt that we really do need to go through David Porper to initiate this. Should we propose that one of us attend their next meeting? (Last or Fourth Tuesday of the Month, 7pm?)

Meetinghouse Green

Jackie brought a 1889 map of the area that is now the north part of Ward 3 (apparently was parts of Wards 5 and 6 at the time).

Bob W. handed out a project plan.

David said he would talk to Mike Hale about having the DPW take care of MHG.

Jackie told us that she has had documentation discussing the condition and needs of MHG delivered (return receipt!) to various city officials, so the City has definitely been informed.

A motion was made and passed to form a subcommittee, made up of Bob, Mary Ellen and Jackie J., to come up with a wishlist for MHG.

In the late 1940s, the State moved the White Ellery House to its currently location and gave it to the City. Would that documentation tell us where the Meeting House was?

Archive

Mary Ellen would like to get boxes to store our documents in the PO basement. (An archive is one of the requirements of CLG.) David said he has boxes. Not sure where we left this?

First Parish Burial Ground and Clark Cemetery

Amanda is no longer heading up this subcommittee. Rachel and Josh will be coordinating with David directly.

Steve LeBlanc responded to Amanda's message and said he would like to help with the issues in his ward (that is, FPBG/Clark, and MHG). Commission agreed that Amanda would invite him to our next meeting. [Update since meeting: Steve said will be there.]

Shirley Hendrickson told us that we have \$1682.29 in the account. This is after payment for the goats and the spring workshop. (I think.)

Shirley expects to receive an approval from the GHC for any expenditures Rachel & Josh's group requests.

In future, donations earmarked for FPBG/Clark will go to the Gloucester Fund, not the DPW.

Amanda said she would relinquish her administrator status on the Facebook pages for the cemeteries and put Bob W on. [Update since meeting: I think Crystal removed me (didn't realize she could do this??) I was unable to put Bob on. I do suggest that someone from the GHC become an administrator on the page – I guess Crystal will have to do it.]

Website

Not discussed at November meeting, but needs to be discussed at December meeting.

GHC Commissioners

Leon Doucette will write a letter to the Mayor asking her to appoint him to the GHC as an alternate.

Leon also mentioned that there is a GHS history teacher who is also a security guard at the Cape Ann Museum, Jude Seminara, who may be interested in being involved with the commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm. The next meeting will be December 22nd (a week early due to holidays) at 6:30 in the City Hall first floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Nash