

Gloucester Historical Commission
Minutes of Meeting
City Hall
April 28, 2014, 6:30 pm

Present: Steve Pardee, David Rhineland, Jeff Crawford, Amanda Nash

Guests: Manuel Quesada, Theon O'Neill, Yoshi Shiotsu from Unification Church, 190 Western
Mary Ellen Lepionka, Cape Ann Archeologist

1. Minutes

Minutes were reviewed and accepted.

2. Public Comment

The three guests from the **Unification Church** came to ask our advice about getting some funding for doing repairs at their location, the former Cardinal Cushing Villa at 190 Western Ave. They said they would like to open up the place to visitors on occasion, but they need to make safety repairs, specifically in the stone tower, which has had some repairs before but is crumbling. They want to be able to show people the view from the tower. Yoshi Shiotsu is spearheading the project. He said he came to Gloucester to found a startup but it failed and the UC took him in to live at "Morning Garden" (their name for the Villa). They gave us some history of the place:

The house was built in 1845 by George Hovey. It burned in 1878, and was bought in 1905 by John Hays Hammond (Sr.), who rebuilt it for his wife, Natalie. Half of the property initially was owned by Sawyer. There is a painting by Fitz Henry Lane of the two original piers. Hammond was a contender for the vice presidency under Taft. Taft would come up from Beverly to visit and they would play golf at Myopia. Calvin Coolidge would visit when he was Lt. Governor of Massachusetts.

When the Catholic Church owned it they used it as a retreat for some of their Polish clergy. The UC is using it for a retreat as well.

Some of the woodwork, etc. is original, for instance there is a carved oak chapel that is outstanding. The fireplaces are no longer usable; the UC heats with oil. The stone wall out front needs repointing. The neighbor's wall, which is a continuation of the same wall, has already collapsed.

They asked us what grants are available. We suggested they go to the MHC to find out if they are on the State Register of Historic Places or the National Register.

They said they could give us a tour on 5/10 or 5/11. Not sure who was going to follow up: **Steve**? (Though Steve has already been there.)

Mary Ellen Lepionka told us about some recent discoveries regarding the archaeology of Cape Ann. She recently gave a slide show at the Writers Center and had an article in the Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archeological Society about some archeological research from the 1930s and '40s that she rediscovered.

Most research has been privately funded and not publicized. What she found makes clear that there were settlements in Riverview between Riverview Ave and Corliss St. and in Riverdale. There were others on Coles Island, Lobster Cove/Goose Cove, Wingaersheek Beach, and Old Garden Beach.

She and Mark Carlotto (an astroengineer, and who wrote *The Island Woods*) have written an article that is due to be published (also in the Bulletin of the Mass Arch Soc) about a native solar observatory that is located on Sunset Hill (Poles Hill). This property is now owned by the City and the Essex County Greenbelt. The paper is on their website (capeannarchaeology.info) as a draft. Mark made a video that is also on their website. (Ed Note: pretty interesting! – I just watched it!)

They also located effigy stones on Sunset Hill indicating that the site was used as a ceremonial hilltop as well as a solar observatory. More research is being done at the site and another paper is forthcoming.

Mary Ellen agreed to forward her two articles (the published one and the draft) as well as the text of her slide show. (She has since done this and I have distributed to the group and will attach to the minutes when I file with the City.)

When the Dorchester Company arrived, natives were occupying the area (apparently this is not how it has been reported in history books!) There were Pawtucket living in Gloucester Harbor, and when the people went inland the English used their wigwams and fish stages. The Dorchester Company paid off their debt for their failed fishing venture through trading with the natives. The Pawtucket also had a large settlement in Beverly/Salem. At first many natives intermarried and assimilated, or indentured themselves for protection, but they were declared enemies after 1675. Bounties were offered for Indian scalps (at one time, 40£ for men's, 20£ for women's, and 10£ for children's)! The Algonquians originally came to New England via the Ottawa Valley and Great Lakes region. They were not tribes or nations but lived in bands of related families led by a sagamore. The Algonquians in Essex County were related to the Penacook, from NH, and were led by Masconomet. at the time of European contact (Mary Ellen said she did some research into it and found that the claim that Vikings came to Cape Ann is most likely false!)

Native Americans **STILL** return here and some practice traditional ceremonies at their sacred sites. On the 2010 census, 18,000 in Mass identified themselves as Native Americans.

Steve invited Mary Ellen to join the GHC and she said she would consider it and would come to our June 30th (September 29th) meeting. We are all very excited about her and hope she will join!

3. Continuing Business

David has been sworn in on the Community Preservation Community. The GHC proposal was submitted; the rulings have not been made yet. They have 14 sites that they will inspect. The CPC has asked us to prioritize our three projects. Steve agreed to send out an email requesting our priorities and he has since done this. We have voted and agreed to ask for funding for the projects in this order: 1) Complete Rocky Neck application; 2) Complete Duncan's Point (Harbor Loop) application; 3) Complete Annisquam application.

David and **Amanda** will meet to talk about budget, grants, and fundraising opportunities. Some of the suggestions for possible fundraising ideas/venues are: Zimmerman to give talk? Movie at CACC? Jalapeno's? White Ellery House? (Perhaps Mary Ellen Lepionka's talk could also qualify?) **We all** agreed to try to come up with fundraising ideas.

A motion was made and passed to forego Preservation Awards this year. Due to commissioners' surgeries and CAM being renovated this year, it just seemed like too much to do.

Amanda passed around a list of programs and policies that were recommended to Salem in the pursuit of preserving of The Point neighborhood. Although the list of actions was recommended to Salem, it was a very general list and could apply to any town. Amanda agreed to email it to all commissioners late (this has been done).

Amanda will follow up with Steve LeBlanc to request help in getting City to maintain FPBG & Clark Cemetery. **Amanda** will call Barbara Lambert to see if she is interested in rejoining the GHC.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm. Due to surgery for both of our fearless leaders, we will skip the May meeting; the next meeting will be Monday, June 30th at 6:30 pm at City Hall in the first floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Nash

ADDENDUM: The next meeting occurred after a four-month hiatus during which two members of the commission recovered from major surgery. The next meeting was held on September 29, 2014.