

**Gloucester Historical Commission  
Minutes of Meeting  
City Hall  
February 27, 2014, 6:30 pm**

Present: Steve Pardee, David Rhinelander, Jeff Crawford, Bob Whitmarsh, Amanda Nash

Guests: Lisa Ramos, Lauren Asaro for Magnolia Point Cemetery; Joseph Parisi for St. Anne's Church, Holy Family Parish

**1. Minutes**

Minutes were reviewed and accepted.

**2. Correspondence (attached)**

- Letter regarding getting a historic plaque on 92 Holly Street. **Amanda** will refer to Pru Fish.
- Letter confirming that St. Ann's is on National Register of Historic Places.
- Notice of Section 106 filing.
- Letter to Edith Sparling regarding the process for putting Fishermen's Memorial Cemetery on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Letter from Jeffrey Shimson of MassDOT to Brona Simon acknowledging the GHC's approval of Phase II of the A. Piatt Andrew Bridge Preservation Project.

**3. CPA Application for Magnolia Point Cemetery**

Lisa Ramos and Lauren Asaro attended to request historic designation for Magnolia Point Cemetery. They explained:

- There are pre-revolutionary war veterans buried there.
- It started out being the family burial grounds for the Knight and Knowlton families who were some of the first settlers in Magnolia. This was around 1826. The City took over the cemetery around 1850.
- Daniel Fuller, who bought most of Magnolia Point from the Knowltons, is buried there.
- Members of the Millett family are buried there.
- Jonathan Gilbert, father of Addison Gilbert, is buried there.
- Steven Douglas, who invented the iron lung, is buried there.

Six members of the cemetery committee (part of the Magnolia Historical Society) are descendents of people who are buried there. They are requesting funds because trees have been falling and they are knocking down the gravestones, and they want to have some of them removed. Also they want to rebuild a stone wall and extend it; they will put this project out to bid.

David Rhinelander made a motion to deem the cemetery historically significant; it was passed unanimously.

#### **4. CPA Application for St. Anne's Church, Holy Family Parish**

Joseph Parisi attended to request historic designation for St. Anne's Church. He explained:

St. Anne's is the first and largest Catholic church in Gloucester, they currently accommodate 4700 families; the church seats 900. (There are 14,000 Catholics on Cape Ann.) A wooden church was first built at the current location in 1855. Prior to 1948 there were not many Catholics on Cape Ann. Then the Irish, Portuguese, and Italians began to come in. The church raised \$100,000 and built a stone church at this location in 1876, and the wooden church was moved and repurposed.

They are applying for CPA funds to preserve the structure. The floor joists are sitting on dirt. They need to replace the sills and the joists. They need to create handicapped accessibility from the street and to the second floor. They will build on an elevator vestibule onto the church.

The commission had a question about the project because the preliminary application only addresses the accessibility project, which is not the preservation part of the project, although there were checkboxes on the application that said it would be a "historic preservation" and "rehab/restore" project. Mr. Parisi said that the final application would address the preservation part of the project. The commission agreed to vote on the historic significance of the building under the assumption that the final application would focus on that.

Jeff Crawford made a motion to deem the church historically significant; it was passed unanimously.

#### **5. GHC's applications for CPA funding**

Wendy send proposed applications for the next round of CPA funding. One is to complete the applications for the neighborhoods, Rocky Neck, Annisquam, and Duncan's Point, for \$27,000; the other is to do the commercial industrial spaces on Main and Rogers streets for \$19,000.

David Rhinelander made a motion to have Wendy complete the neighborhoods application; the motion was passed unanimously.

#### **6. Other Old Business**

Jeff brought up the fact that the City is storing assessors records at the Cape Ann Museum archive. He feels that the City needs to have a climate-controlled archive here at City Hall.

We discussed possible GHC funding opportunities that might be brought up with Linzee Coolidge of the Dusky Foundation. Preservation Awards. GHC Website (to include street

index, significant architecture (City Hall, Gorton's, UU, Adventure?), history of Gloucester, info on historic preservation tax credits, links to cultural districts, historic district, Harbor Walk). Commercial/Industrial Inventory; hiring someone to help us present Demo Delay.

**Steve** mentioned he knows someone who may be able to help us with Demo Delay and will contact him.

**David and Amanda** agreed to meet with Wendy regarding grants and website.

Certified Local Government program – can we get re-established as a CLG?

First Parish & Clark maintenance: Jeff received clarification that the \$3000 estimate was for one cut! And \$4217 to clear out. He will get more estimates.

Awards

## **7. New Business**

Bob mentioned that he would like to discuss the pocket park by the rotary at the next meeting. Ashland Place, near White-Ellery. They want to put in some benches, etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm. The next meeting will be Monday, March 31st at 6:30 pm at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amanda Nash