

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

Present: Steve Pardee, David Rhineland, Jeff Crawford, Tom O'Keefe, Bob Whitmarsh, Amanda Nash

Guests: Jeff Shrimpton of Mass DOT (also a Gloucester resident), Preston Huckabee of Gill Engineering, Robert Haverkamp of the Committee for the Arts, Maggie Rosa representing the City Hall Restoration Commission, Wendy Frontiero researcher and archivist.

1. Minutes

Minutes were reviewed and accepted.

2. A Piatt Andrew Bridge

Preston Huckabee: Gill Engineers were the engineers for the first A Piatt Andrew Bridge rehab. When they got under the bridge to clean and paint it, they found that the condition of the bracing was much worse than anticipated.

The steel that is salvageable is insufficient to be worth saving.

The replacement work will take place between the two pylons and on the deck of the bridge.

The approach spans are already completed.

They will also retrofit the joints; they aren't seated properly and are clanging when cars drive over them. Deflection joints (which accommodate movement) are recessed too far because the deck was cast too high. The deck will be milled down to reducing bumping.

The arches also need some work, although they are still safe; but there is decay from wind and road salt and ocean salt. They will bolt new plates on to strengthen the arches.

The arch braces need replacing (some? all?). The new ones will be the same shape as the original bracing system, but will use structural tubes (square tubes). The boxes preclude water channels. They will reuse existing gussets. The coating will be metalized, similar to galvanizing.

Bronze doors will be restored.

New bracing system should last 50 years, and then will only need cleaning and painting.

Construction impacts:

Daily lane closures, only one lane at a time, for a couple of months.

Some work will be one from underneath, from barges.

They will use containment drapes as they did before.

No total closures or detours. No Jersey barriers

No rush hour delays (6-9am, 3-7pm)

Initial estimate was 800 days, the new estimate is 600 days.

Bronze doors:

One pair of doors depict A. Piatt Andrew. One pair depict Gloucester fishermen.

There is pitting from salt and concrete, and paint splatters. They will repatinatate and wax. The locks don't work – they have been replaced with hasps and padlocks. These will be removed and replaced with morticed key locks like the originals. The steel frames need to be repaired and cleaned; the bronze frames will have to be replaced. These are affixed to masonry, not to the steel. Since there is federal funding they will adhere to Historic Preservation Act rules. An MHC officer will work with them. They will also go by the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Historic Preservation. Public consultation and GHC input/comments are required. The primary work will be replacing deteriorated steel. They will go back to the original bridge railing style with new suicide prevention measures to replace ugly chain link fence. McGinley Kalsow is subcontractor to Gill for door restoration. They will also need a metals preservation contractor. Doors will be repaired off site. GHC members wanted to know whether they could be displayed in town, perhaps at the Cape Ann Museum, before they get reinstalled. **Jeff** offered to investigate this.

We have 30 days (from the date of the letter) to make comments. Sooner is better! MHC also has 30 days.

They will need to get clearance saying that they are compliant with the National Historic Preservation Act.

Would like to advertise for contractors in late Feb or early March.

A motion by Jeff Crawford to accept the proposal as presented was passed unanimously.

Jeff Shrimpton (Senior Historic Preservation Specialist at Mass DOT) needs a follow-up letter, **Steve** will write. jeffrey.shrimpton@state.ma.us, 857-368-8824/tel, 857-368-0609/fax. Preston Huckabee, Chief Engineer for Gill is at huckabee@gill-eng.com, 781-355-7100/company, 781-657-9053/direct line.

3. City Hall Restoration

Maggie Rosa came in to discuss the City Hall Restoration Committee's applications to the CPA and the Mass Cultural Council.

They need 1.3 million to complete the City Hall restoration. They raised 2.6 million for the earlier phases.

The masonry continues to deteriorate and construction prices continue to increase.

This is the first year that CH became eligible for MCC facilities fund. They have put in a 675K request. In order to be eligible the facility has to be used for more than 50% cultural activities (Bruce Tarr and Ann Margaret Ferrante got the criteria changed).

They've requested \$500K from the CPA (they will need a match – which has been identified).

They want our support. (They do have lots of other support as well.) They are looking for a motion, and a letter.

Jeff stated that he had an issue with the City using the CPA funding for projects he feels the City should be paying for. Apparently this is not unusual though. Some felt that this is exactly what it was designed for: deteriorating historic city buildings.

Applications are due March 7th and March 14th.

Bob made a motion to support the effort of the City Hall Restoration Committee to complete the restoration, and to have letters from the GHC sent to that effect. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Street Inventory

Wendy Frontiero came to discuss funding for the City Inventory.

Steve suggested that we shrink the proposal to the CPA to make it more viable.

Wendy proposed that we produce a digitized map with overlays for the cultural districts, the downtown historic district, etc. She showed us some AppGeo maps that were made for Duxbury from assessors maps according to Wendy's outline of their National Register District. (Note: National Register is less restrictive than Local Historic District.) Among other things, people can use these maps to determine whether they are eligible for tax credits to preserve their properties. (Steve wondered whether we could get Gloucester to offer tax breaks for maintaining historic properties?) The map cost \$900 + \$30/copy from AppGeo and about \$2000 in Wendy's time. We thought it was great but wondered whether we need printouts. Could be used digitally.

Jeff pointed out that we have a problem here of properties being misdated. Can we get this corrected?

Wendy felt that these things were the priorities:

- a. Finish Rocky Neck and Annisquam National Register applications, because they are partly done. (Also maybe Harbor Loop?)
- b. Survey of commercial buildings on Main St east of Pleasant St and along Rogers St.
- c. Areas: Folly Cove, Lanesville, Hodgkins Cove, Riverdale, Stage Fort, 10 Pound Island (others? not sure whether this list is complete).

She felt we could do this for \$25K. (Need to clarify the list.)

Can we get other funding besides CPA? Mass Historical Fun survey grants? Other matching grants? We could ask Dusky Foundation for funds for this. CPA application needs to be in by March <?> <7?>

5. Other Old Business

Jeff has a quote for grasscutting and clearing First Parish and Clark cemetery behind it. The quote is for \$7,217, but **Jeff** said he would clarify how many cuts that would be, he thought it was six.

Steve said he would check with the city to make sure that Susan Albiero was no longer considered to be an active GHC member, apparently we received some correspondence about this.

Amanda said she would look into getting the City website update with current GHC commissioners' contact info.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm. The next meeting will be Monday, February 24th at 6:30 pm at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Nash