

Gloucester Historical Commission
Minutes of Meeting
City Hall
March 30, 2013, 6:30 p.m.

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

Guests: Prospective Commissioners Michelle Mustone, Randy Jones

1. Minutes

Minutes for the February meeting were reviewed and accepted with corrections.

2. Miscellaneous

Amanda will ask David Brooks to forward the estimate for the proposed work at Action, Inc., as discussed at the February meeting. (Email sent 4/14)

Amanda will ask Helen McCabe if she has suggestions for candidates for a Gloucester Cemeteries Commission. (Email sent 4/14)

David needs to arrange for Mary Ellen to replace Steve Pardee as signatory for Gloucester Fund.

There is an Open Meeting Law Forum on April 7 from 6-8 that will be conducted by Maura Healey's office. We are all encouraged to register and go.

October is Archaeology Month. **Mary Ellen** discussed the possibility of her giving the paper she wrote with Mark Carlotta. She will talk to Chris Pantano and the Lyceum about scheduling a talk in October that would then be promoted as part of Archaeology Month. Other possible locations are the Rocky Neck Cultural Center and Cape Ann Saving's Bank. The Finding Dogtown group have already scheduled something at CAM.

David will sign and return the Army Corps of Engineers proposed MOA for Harbor Loop.

Mary Ellen updated us on archival storage situation – the Post Office basement storage is ONLY for minutes and agendas. GHC chairs usually keep the rest of the material at their homes (how can this work over time?)...

The MHC has sent us a State Register of Historic Places book. A motion was passed to deposit it at the City Archive for safe-keeping.

Michelle Mustone will join the Commission as an alternate. (Can someone remind me where we are in this process? I seem to have left it out of the minutes. Was it up to her to submit a letter to the Mayor or does the Commission need to initiate it?)

3. MHC/Dusky Grant

Grant obtained by David and Mary Ellen from the Dusky Foundation will be for \$30,000; then the \$15,000 from the MHC grant will be returned to Dusky. There is also the possibility that the \$15K will be forgiven by Dusky.

Mary Ellen has reported receipt of the grant(s?) to the Mayor's office so that the City Council can approve and set up the account(s?).

4. Cemeteries

Mary Ellen went to the meeting with Rachel Meyer, et al. They came up with two wish lists to submit to the DPW – one for FPBG and one for Clark. Some other things planned are:

Community cemetery cleanup days will be held monthly.

The workshop on cleaning and restoring headstones is scheduled.

They are collecting, cataloging and storing shards.

The goats are scheduled to return in June.

They are filing all headstones with Find-a-Grave.

They are mowing and cutting around headstones (so that the DPW can come through with their mowers without having to worry about damaging headstones).

They are planning a community event for veterans in November around Veterans' Day.

Mary Ellen rewrote Rachel's wishlists to make them more presentable to the DPW.

The DPW has located the National Register plaque for the FPBG.

The process for getting City money for the cemeteries is, the requests have to go in the Mayor's budget, and then the City Council votes on it.

From now on we want all funds for the cemeteries to go into the Gloucester Fund account, so the money held by DPW needs to be spent down and no new funds should be directed there.

Is there a granting agency for historic cemeteries?

Amanda proposed that Rachel's group get a preservation award and Mary Ellen agreed. (But actual voting on preservation awards will take place at next meeting.) Names of people in that group are: Rachel Meyer, Josh Gerloff, Crystal Daley, Kathryn Kahnwalkar.

5. Meetinghouse Green

Leon has agreed to help out with designing the Pannier for Meetinghouse Green. The Pannier will be 2' x 3'. There is one at Ravenswood that can be used as an example. (And also Halibut Point?)

Jeff talked to Sarah Dunlap and Pru Fish regarding text and will follow up with them. Someone noted that the location description cannot be too specific because no one actually knows exactly where the MG was!

We hope to have the Pannier by summer. Mike Hale said that the DPW can mount it and install.

We discussed checking with local purveyors to see if they could provide the sign. Colleen at Good Harbor Graphics, Seaside Graphics, and a company on Pond Road were mentioned. Not sure who was going to follow up on that? Michelle mentioned that students at Endicott sometimes do these types of projects.

6. Preservation Awards

Possible recipients include:

Steve Pardee for lifetime achievement (**David** will look into it)

Maritime Gloucester for their renovation (is this done?)

Cemetery group (described above)

Robert Apse for quarrying video

Jackie Jameison for Meetinghouse Green

Haskell House renovation

Enduring Gloucester blog

Rocky Neck Cultural Center

Pru suggested Joe Roman for 1 Tolman St, which is apparently an 1890 Victorian, although many of us felt it didn't look either Victorian or old, and we aren't sure whether contractors should receive awards (is he also the owner?)

We also discussed other events we could host, such as a party at the Haskell House, a First Saturday event at the White-Ellery House, and a preservation talk (necessary to satisfy our MHC grant requirement).

7. Website

The website will be discussed at a future meeting.

8. Additional action items

Submit list of candidates for preservation awards to Amanda by April 8. She will collect the list and email it out for consideration. Initially we were going to vote by email but then realized it violates the open meeting laws, so will schedule another meeting to vote before our regular late April meeting.

Weigh in on the MOA between GHC and HDC that Mary Ellen emailed out.

Weigh in on proposed Demo Delay text that Mary Ellen emailed out.

Make sure resumes are in to satisfy Certified Local Government requirements.

Attachments to minutes:

Michelle's resume

Cemetery group's two wishlists – Mary Ellen will forward to Amanda (received)

Army Corps MOA – David will forward to Amanda when he receives fully executed copy

Action Inc estimate – Amanda has requested from David Brooks

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. The next regular meeting will be April 27th at 6:30 in the City Hall first floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Nash