

Gloucester Historical Commission
Monthly Meeting at City Hall
July 27, 2015

Members Present:

Mary Ellen Lepionka, David Rhineland, Thomas O'Keefe III, Robert Whitmarsh, and Jeff Crawford. Michelle Bader-Mustone was absent, and Jeff served as secretary in her absence.

Minutes: Minutes of the June 29 meeting were accepted as amended and will be posted on the City web site.

Public commentary not on the Agenda: Jackie Jamieson sent a letter thanking the GHC for her 2015 preservation award for work on Meetinghouse Green and would like to do research on behalf of the GHC. Mary Ellen encouraged her to explore byways that might qualify for state historic designation as a "Scenic Road". Mary Ellen received e-mails from Pru Fish about houses at 21 Concord St. and 73 Western Ave. She also had suggestions for "scenic roads" and recommended 1113 Washington St. for a house plaque. Helen McCabe said that we should notice the Eagle Scout project that has been done at the war memorial at the head of Mill River. She also nominated them for a 2016 preservation award. David Porper emailed to request that the plaque boulder on Meetinghouse Green be countersunk and hostas planted around it.

Letters to Mayor: We discussed the proposed letters to the mayor in support of a professional Archivist for the City and requesting an operating budget for the GHC. David will edit and send the letter about the archivist. Line items for the budget proposal could include preservation award certificates, educational programs, public events at historic houses, house plaques, and tourist brochures about National Register sites in Gloucester. In the meantime, commissioners gave \$10 each to Tom O'Keefe to cover his expenses for the preservation awards.

MOA: Mary Ellen is scheduled to give a presentation to the HDC on August 11 about becoming a Certified Local Government. Their July 14 meeting was cancelled.

Discussion about the workshop on Demo Delay: We would ask the City Council and the Chamber of Commerce to attend. We hope to have a panel discussion with us, SPNEA, and MHC with representatives from the historical commissions in three other towns to talk about how Demo Delay talk would work. David suggested we add a second event to follow up with actual owners from Essex, Beverly, and Ipswich describing and showing how demolition delay worked for them.

It was suggested that the workshop and presentation be held on March 26, 2016 and April 30, 2016 at 2pm, preferably at the Cape Ann Museum or Sawyer Free Library. Mary Ellen will find out about MHC and venue availability.

David R. will contact Sally Zimmerman of SPNEA. Tom and Bob will contact towns/cities about contributing to the workshop. Mary Ellen will follow up with councilors about their concerns and views concerning Demo Delay. On the advice of a councilor, she will also meet with Ken Rhiel of the Chamber of Commerce.

Recruitment: Jeff C. will contact local architects about experts on historically significant properties who might be willing to be alternates or members or volunteer consultants of the GHC . We need more people who meet the MHC's list of qualifications for serving on a Historical Commission.

“Meetinghouse” Green: Jeff will contact Leon about the “Village Green “ sign. Mary Ellen will meet with Mike Hale of the DPW to clarify specifications for the signage.

Web Site: Mary Ellen will send Jeff a list about content for the GHC website.

Cemeteries: We received an invoice and receipts from Rachel Meyer for \$91.83. Jeff moved that we submit the bill to the Gloucester Fund for payment. All were in favor and Mary Ellen will see to it.

Next meeting: Monday, August 31 at 6:30, 3rd floor conference room, City Hall.