

30 November 2015 GHC Minutes

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

Visitors: Sandy Barry, Josh Gerloff, Zenos Seppala

1. Motion to approve the minutes of the October 26th meeting. Approved as corrected.
2. Public comment on items not on the agenda:
Raanaker and Associates, Inc. sent for GHC review proposals for 8 new communications towers to be erected along the railroad tracks. David and Leon will head a subcommittee to study the documents and report to the Commission on what the project will entail.
3. Sandy Barry and Josh Gerloff presented a proposal for a headstone repair workshop by expert TaMara Conde on behalf of the Historic Cemetery Subcommittee. The proposal was supported by TaMara Conde's resume and testimonials sent by members of the MassHistPres listserv. The workshop will take place in spring with 10 participants at a cost of \$2,000. Of this, \$1,732 will come from the DPW, which will effectively close that account, and the balance will come from the cemetery money in the Gloucester Fund. The Commission voted to authorize this workshop and to close out the DPW account.
4. Mary Ellen reported on a meeting with Jim Destino about the GHC's Demolition Delay Ordinance proposal, which was forward to him by Chris Payson, the solicitor. Mary Ellen had sent the proposal to the solicitor to check the language from a legal standpoint. Mr. Destino, introducing himself as the City Manager, had questions that were answered in the proposal had he read it. He warned that there would be heavy opposition and we should wait until after elections and after the first of the year to field it again. He said we would need one or more City Councilors to sponsor it.

Mary Ellen proposed and it was approved to revise the Ordinance again, taking Mr. Destino's objections into account, and to recirculate the proposal to the GHC. Upon their approval Mary Ellen will send the proposal to the Mayor, Mr. Payson and Mr. Destino, and all the City Councilors, along with an invitation to attend the February 29 meeting of the GHC to discuss the matter further. We will ask for RSVPs and also will invite John Fiske of the Ipswich Historical Commission to attend that meeting to advocate for demolition delay. At the same time Mary Ellen will make an appointment with the Mayor for 2 or 3 members of the GHC to meet with her in her office to discuss the proposal. In the meantime, each GHC member will talk informally with his or her ward councilor or councilor-at-large to raise awareness and answer questions about demolition delay. Joe Ciolino, Val Gilman, and others were named as potential sponsors. Those unable to attend the February meeting will be invited to the March 28 meeting for the same purpose.
5. Mary Ellen reported on the Survey and Planning Grant, which is underway. Phase I has been completed and circulated among GHC members and the first invoice has been sent

to Ken Costa for payment. Mary Ellen is meeting with the consultants, Wendy Frontiero and Kathy Broomer, and with the MHC director Michael Steinitz at 9:30 on December 1 to launch Phase 2 of the project, which will narrow down the areas and properties to be inventoried.

Mary Ellen reported that the Historic District Commission has not yet voted on the proposed Memorandum of Agreement with the GHC to qualify as a Certified Local Government because they have not had occasion to meet in the past few months. HDC Chairman David Porper will notify Mary Ellen when there is a meeting.

6. Leon reported on his research so far into salvageable parts of the train bridge to be rebuilt at Dunfudgin. His photographs show a large gear as a piece that might serve as an historic artifact exhibit or outdoor sculpture. Leon will spearhead further investigation and will contact the train bridge contractors for more information about schedule and logistics. The Cape Ann Museum may be able to advise on where to exhibit the piece. Leon also will ask the cable station or college departments if they would like to photodocument the train bridge in action before it is demolished. Videography could be part of an exhibit or added to the record.

David will find out the status of the Civil War coat and will report on it at the January meeting. He will draft a letter in support of preserving the coat and finding an appropriate home for it, which the GHC will read and agree to before it is sent. Rebecca Reynolds and the Committee of the Arts have undertaken fund raising for this project.

7. Mary Ellen reported that Kirk Noyes of the Gloucester Development Team has offered to pay for a republication of *Land Marks*, published in 1979. Wendy Frontiero will be the author and Mary Ellen the editor. The revision will feature the same architectural drawings but new photographs of Gloucester houses, and the text will be digitized and updated. Copies will be distributed to members of government, civic leaders, the schools, the Archives, and the library, and also will be sold through the Cape Ann Museum and bookstores.

8. Leon and Jeff presented a beautiful plan for the new signage for Meetinghouse Green. The 2X3 foot sign will feature a historical map showing the location of the original green with Rte. 128 and Grant Circle superimposed on it. Leon will produce this map. Jeff will provide the text to appear as an inset on the map, which will briefly explain in simple terms the basic history of the site.

Decision about the Scenic Roads project was postponed until the January meeting. The GHC needs to survey the roads identified by Jackie Jamieson and identify ones that will qualify under the state laws. Leon noted that we would have to choose carefully because the laws restrict abutters on scenic roads, e.g., from removing trees and walls.

Further discussion of the new GHC web site was also postponed.

9. Saturday, May 14 is the date of the 2016 Preservation Awards Ceremony, which will be held at the Cape Ann Museum in conjunction with the CAM's activities and exhibits for Preservation Month. We will start to consider award recipients and will ask Pru Fish and others to make recommendations.

10. Mary Ellen proposed and the GHC approved that she will write a letter to the mayor recommending that Sandy Barry be named an Alternate on the GHC, starting immediately. Sandy will send a letter of interest and resume. The next meeting of the GHC will be December 28th at 6:30 in the 3rd floor conference room.