

**Gloucester Historical Commission
Interim Meeting, 10 April 2017
Minutes**

Present: Mary Ellen Lepionka, Bob Whitmarsh, David Rhinelander, Sandy Barry, Jude Seminara, Holly Clay, Bill Remsen

1. Public business not on the agenda

As a Certified Local Government (CLG), Gloucester is required to compose an Annual Report. The Report will record GHC (Gloucester Historical Commission) & HDC (Historic District Commission) activities over the course of the last year. Information will be compiled according to Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) criteria. Sandy to document HDC activities; Holly to document GHC activities.

The Sargent House Museum staff member who previously requested a GHC letter of support for a CPC grant for capital improvements to the roof, has again asked for letter of support. Mary Ellen had referred her to the HDC, because the Museum is a matter of historic district, HDC, concern. They proposed applying to the CPC for \$160,000 for the roof. Mary Ellen will have another conversation with her, again explaining the CPC does not usually give out this kind of grant, a grant for capital improvements. A primary CPC focus is projects that benefit the community and the people of Gloucester.

In addition, we do not have any application details. We will ask her to present to us at a meeting or supply necessary information.

David Dow invited GHC members to a Stage Fort Park Advisory Committee meeting. Mary Ellen, Bill and Jude will go. The Committee will be contracting with an archaeological consulting firm called Public Archaeology Laboratory (PAL) in Rhode Island. Bill reminds us that an engineering map would be helpful. Bill will check to see if he can get a copy of it.

Closing on FY 2016 Survey and Planning grant is at hand this summer. The City will be reimbursed.

2. Status report on grants and National Register nominations

Survey and Planning Grant 2017 Dogtown: The Dusky Foundation signed for another \$10,000, thereby providing the full match for the Dogtown Survey and Planning Grant.

Rockport will go to their CPC in May; Rockport should appoint a liaison to

collaborate with us during the survey process.

Rocky Neck nomination to the National Register is proceeding apace. Mary Ellen typed 186 mailing labels for the MHC letters to residents. A second informational meeting is scheduled for 19 May; GHC and MHC reps will be there. The State Review Board meets on 14 June to approve/disapprove the MHC National Register recommendation.

The MHC has indicated they will nominate Annisquam next.

3. Preparation for the 2017 Preservation Awards

Press Release reviewed by all and will be sent to media outlets as soon as possible.

- Final list of recipients and categories was reviewed.
- Mary Ellen created an announcement and the Program, using a Program template from previous years.
- Holly created examples of award certificates; these look fine, so she'll proceed with them according to the proposed design.
- GHC members are to remind their recipients of the location, date and time of the Awards Ceremony.

4. Discussion of new action plans for stalled initiatives

- Meetinghouse green signage placement. We will make certain the sign is installed with GHC members' input.
- Landmarks publication project. Need funding source. Waiting for funds from Gloucester Development Fund. We could just make a digital file. As currently laid out, the revised *Landmarks* would be 64 pages. We will schedule a special meeting just for working on *Landmarks*, once awards are behind us.
- Demolition Delay Ordinance. No action has been taken.
- New house plaques. Pru Fish forwarded the name of a vendor in RI who makes plaques. The plaques list the name of a property's original owner, his/her occupation, and the original construction date. The GHC may take over production and installation of plaques, should there come a time when Pru has to pull out. Plaques raise awareness of value of historic presence. The GHC will compose an announcement that people can have plaques. Dates have to be verifiable. Homeowners send checks for plaque production directly to the manufacturer. Plaque has a schooner on it which was made the official Gloucester design by the Gloucester Preservation Committee.

- Historic preservation plan for municipal properties- deferred.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 24, 6:30 pm, 3rd fl. Conference room, City Hall