

Gloucester Historical Commission
Minutes of 26 June Meeting

Present: Mary Ellen Lepionka, Bob Whitmarsh, David Rhineland, Sandy Barry, Bill Remsen, Holly Clay
Kerry Herrmann (Rockport High School history teacher)

1. Public Business Not on the Agenda

- a. The GHC [received a large packet of copies of Section 106 notices that included invoices from tribes. The GHC gave them to the Mayor. Mary Ellen wrote a letter saying that we think the towers would not have a negative impact on the city's historical resources.](#)
 - b. Liaison Matters. David Rhineland is stepping down from the CPC, and Holly Clay will take his place as the GHC representative. Mary Ellen represents the GHC on the Dogtown Advisory Committee, Bill and David on the Saunders House committee, and Jude on the Stage Fort Committee. Sandy chairs the Cemeteries Advisory Committee, in addition to sitting on the GHC.
 - c. The ADA Parking compliance project is complete.
 - d. Bill has been sworn in. David Rhineland has become an Alternate.
 - e. Gravestone Workshop (Gloucester). Bill attended this worthwhile hands-on workshop sponsored by the National Park Service Center for preservation training and technology (NCPTT). About 25 people participated and adjusted about ten gravestones. [I think Bill sent some edits?](#)
 - f. Historic Deerfield is offering a New England Framing Options workshop on July 15. Participants will learn about framing from early settlement days to the Mid-19thc.
 - g. Gloucester is considering increasing the CPC contribution from one to three percent. If a proposal comes to City Council, the GHC will endorse an increase and write a letter of support for the proposal.
 - h. Certified Local Government compliance. At least one yearly joint meeting of the Historic District Commission and the Gloucester Historical Commission is required. Because few HDC members attend meetings, the GHC leans towards merging the two commissions. The HDC has difficulty fielding a quorum to make a decision at HDC meetings. GHC will research other towns'/cities' models and continue discussions with HDC Chair David Porper.
1. **Minutes of May Meeting** approved.
 2. **Status Reports:**
 - a. National Register
+Rocky Neck has been approved for entry in the National Register and will be called "Rocky Neck Historic District." The State Review Board voted unanimously in favor of nominating Rocky Neck. GHC feels that title misleads, because it does not differentiate the Federal National Register from

the [Local](#) historic District. Mary Ellen will contact Betsy Friedberg about the name.

+Annisquam: The Massachusetts Historical Commission has nominated Annisquam for inclusion in the National Register. An historic survey of properties close to the Village center, but not previously surveyed, is ongoing. [National Register Director Betsy Friedberg is scheduled to visit Annisquam to answer residents' questions on July 25.](#)

b. MPPF Grant, 2017. Nineteen grants were awarded in this fiscal year's round ([averaging around \\$50k each](#)). All recipients were non-profits. The GHC application for \$150,000 for the exterior of the "Legion Building"/the Old Town Hall [House] was denied. The GHC can re-apply with updated materials. Mary Ellen will ask the MHC how the GHC can improve an application.

The GHC will talk to City administrators about using the "match" Gloucester "put up" to begin much needed renovation work.

c. FY 2016 Survey & Planning Grant. On Stage Four, the project is delayed. The Inventory for Stacy Boulevard has been received.

d. FY 2017 Survey & Planning Grant. The Dogtown survey is delayed while MHC archeologists prepare the Scope of Work. Bill has touched base with MHC archeologist Ed Bell and Betsy Friedberg. They have recommended three consultants to conduct the survey. Gloucester is not limited to those three. The MHC stresses the importance of collaborating with Rockport. The archeological survey is considered "broad-brush," primarily aimed at collecting sufficient information for a National Register nomination. The GHC notes a \$30,000 survey should provide detail beyond what the MHC currently describes.

e. The Dogtown Advisory Committee is working on designing a conservation restriction ordinance and is drawing up a strategic plan.

f. FY 2018 Survey and Planning Grant. Wendy Frontiero has suggested nominating Stage Fort Park to the National Register. Stage Fort was surveyed this year [on the FY2016 grant](#). In the Fall we will review all proposed properties [to include in the next round](#).

g. Cemetery Advisory Committee. Projects are moving ahead and the headstone restoration workshop (see above) was a success.

h. Meetinghouse Green Sign. Changes to the plan were made by Jeff and placed on a disc, now in hands of Joe Lucito at the DPW.

- i. **CLG Annual Report.** Fiscal year July to July. Mary Ellen has compiled information received from Holly and Sandy and will finish the report soon.

4. Stage Fort Park Restoration project: Mary Ellen, Jude, and Bill.

a. GHC has a site survey, which was part of FY 2016 Survey & Planning grant. Bill wrote scope of work for Public Archeology Lab (PAL). The City has plans to add lighting and planting which should be added in an archeologically sensitive way.

GHC members met with Steve Winslow in the city planning office. The city has no map of the area, no map of underground utilities.

b. CPC, GHC and Planning Department are weighing in on the project proposed by the Stage Fort Restoration Committee. The CPC agrees that a survey and some level of archeological investigation should be conducted in advance of landscaping additions and changes.

Jude will get in touch with David Dow to find out about progress.

c. GHC will approach the Planning Department about collaborating on funding for an archeological study in conjunction with the FY 2018 Survey and Planning Grant.

5. Saunders House Restoration. Saunders House Stewardship committee. The GHC takes a positive view of the Saunders House Stewardship Committee. It includes Mern Sibley, Chair, Jane Meade, Pru Rish, Bill Remsen and David Rhineland. The committee is:

- + Exploring the relationship between the Saunders House and the Library (one combined parcel by act of the Legislature),
- + Exploring the best and most productive uses for the variety of spaces in the building,
- + Investigating applying for grants (Mary Ellen to advise).

The GHC suggests nominating the Saunders House to the National Register. AS such, it would be eligible for more grants.

6. Recap of HDC- GHC joint meeting. The two committees see opportunities for collaboration, for example, supporting a Demolition Delay Ordinance.

7. Land Marks Web Development subcommittee. The project is back-burnered, due to lack of funding and copyright assignment (currently assigned to [Gloucester Development Team Inc.](#)). GHC will need a web development consultant. Pru Fish could advise on the fact-checking aspect of such a project.

8. Archives Sorting Party and Cookout: Evening of Monday 17 July at Mary Ellen's

Next Meeting: Monday 31 July, 6:30 PM, City Hall, Third Floor

(Holly will be absent; Minutes to be taken by another GHC member)

