

Gloucester Historical Commission  
Minutes of Meeting  
28 August 2017

**Present:** Mary Ellen Lepionka, Bill Remsen, Jeff Crawford, Sandy Barry, Jude Seminara, David Rhineland, Bob Whitmarsh

**Guests:** J.D. MacEachern, Nicole and Kaye Hutter

**1. Public Business not on Agenda:** Boxford residents Nicole and Kaye Hutter attended the meeting to learn how historic commissions function for a school report.

**2. July Meeting:** Only two members were available to attend the meeting. Business on the agenda was delayed until the August meeting.

**3. Salt Island for Sale \$750,000:** Having viewed the property with a realtor, Mary Ellen and other stakeholders held a meeting (August 18) to discuss a unified approach to preserving the island/saving it from development. 14 people, including Mary Ellen, Chris LaPointe (Greenbelt), Greg Cademartori (Gloucester Community Development), and representatives of the Friends of Good Harbor Beach, the Brier Neck Neighbors' Association, and Save Our Shores Gloucester explored the feasibility of non-profits purchasing the island. They are now investigating funding opportunities and grants from various entities.

Chris LaPointe plans to approach the sellers to see if they would entertain a reasonable price, particularly in view of the many obstacles to building on the island.

Realtors have misled potential purchasers, indicating one could blast for an underground water tank.

#### **4. Status Reports**

**a. Survey & Planning Grant 2016** has been finalized. Mary Ellen will draft a "close-out" letter to the City to trigger reimbursements.

Mary Ellen has passed the Rocky Neck National Register nomination final document to Greg Cademartori in the Community Development Department. Architectural Preservation Specialist Wendy Frontiero updated the MACRIS listing for Saunders House. Greg received a copy.

close out letter and report to get City reimbursed for its match, proff pay Wendy, copy of RFP. ME to do it

**b. Annisquam National Register** project. MHC's Betsy Frieberg answered questions about listing on the National Register at an Annisquam Historical Society meeting. Historic Preservationist Anne Forbes has begun survey work involved with adding properties on the Washington Street segment of Annisquam and potentially on Dennison Street (i.e. Dennison House) and Squam Rock Road (Bornhofft house originally owned by Roger Babson).

**c. MPPF Grant: Restoration of Legion Building (“Town House”/old Town Hall)**

By unanimous vote the GHC decided to refine our grant application for a second submission. A new cycle begins in the Fall. We will use specific feedback from MHC to make corrections. GHC will work more directly with Mike Hale (DPW) to flush out the prices of small items. The grant application asks for the name of the City’s architect. We’ve only just learned the City has an architect under contract/on retainer.

**d. Survey & Planning grant FY 2017 Dogtown.** The RFP for the archeological survey has been prepared, approved by MHC, and sent to Donna Compton (procurement). Contractors must respond by September 12.

The MHC provided GHC with the names of three archeological firms with capabilities to carry out an archeological survey. In addition, the scope of work has been completed and approved. It incorporates features the GHC deems particularly significant: boulders, artists’ motifs, Peters Pulpit, Whales Jaw, etc....

Rockport has a copy of the documentation and the GHC will include them as the project moves forward.

**e. Dogtown Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting.** Mary Ellen represents the GHC on the committee now has an official page on the City’s website. The July 19 meeting discussion included a clean-up stump pile at main entrance off Cherry Street (bid received). The Cape Ann Trail Stewards’ bridge over Stony Brook was vandalized but has been reconstructed. The City’s compost facility at the Cherry Street entrance concerns DAC members, so they will look into alternative sites for the facility. Mike Hale (DPW) says Dogtown and the facility will have to coexist unless another spot is located.

Mark Carlotto is taking leadership role. The DAC has a city account with \$10,000 earmarked for DAC. The DAC has maps from previous group, now defunct.

**f. Cemeteries Advisory Committee:**

+Clark’s and First Parish cemeteries have a monthly mowing schedule, May to October,

+Cemetery inventory: 15 of 24 burial grounds are city-owned.

+Preservation consultants are restoring Revolutionary War-era stones in First Parish and Clark’s.

+CAC calculates receiving \$6500 in in-kind donations to clean and restore and received one outright DAR donation of \$300.

+The CAC wrote Mike Hale about Japanese knotweed (Jim Whittaker is the conservation agent).

+CAC recommended an increase in burial plot fees from \$500 to \$700.

Recommended cremation fees increase from \$250 to \$300. Sandy will request earmarking the money for cemeteries.

+The CAC hopes to develop a classroom connection, educating students in schools and suggesting students volunteer. New CAC member Carol Kelly, a professor (library science) at Salem State, is interested.

+ Unitarian Universalist Church burial ground records were scanned.

+ The CPC awaits word on their grant application for \$9500 to repair fractured stones in Clark's and First Parish.

**g. Meeting House Green Sign** is finished and ready for the DPW to install.

**h. The Certified Local Government (CLG) Annual Report.** Mary Ellen submitted it and the MHC acknowledged receipt. As far as CLG is concerned, Gloucester needs a more active interface between the GHC and the Historic District Commission (HDC).

**i. Saunders House.** David reports the Stewardship Committee, a Library subcommittee, is moving ahead proactively. Bill Remsen, also a Stewardship Committee member, has conducted a thorough-going architectural/structural inspection and deems the building worthy of preservation. The Library needs a grant. The new MACRIS survey entry is explicit and historically correct.

**j. Demolition Delay.** GHC understanding of protocols for initiation legislation continues to evolve.

**k. Stage Fort Park Landscape** GHC will check in with the Stage Fort committee.

**l. Stage Fort Park Archeological** Survey. Details forthcoming.

**5. Business for next meeting:**

GHC and City "Chain of Command"

Survey & Planning next round

Cape Ann History & Gloucester & Rockport Schools

Land Marks

**Next Meeting: Monday 25 September at 6:30. Third Floor, City Hall.**