

## **Minutes**

**Gloucester Historical Commission**  
**December 18, 2017 6:30 PM**  
**City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room**

**Members present:** Mary Ellen Lepionka, Jude Seminara, David Rhineland, Bob Whitmarsh, Holly Clay-Smith

**Members absent:** Sandy Barry, Bill Remsen, Jeff Crawford

**Guests:** Peter Parsons, Peter Lawrence, Richard Jabba

### **I. October Minutes**

Mary Ellen motioned to accept the minutes of the October 30, 2017 meeting. Bob seconded. Mary Ellen, Jude, Bob voted in favor. David abstained. The minutes of the October 30 meeting were accepted.

### **II. Follow up on joint HDC-GHC meeting of November 14 and acceptance of minutes**

Postponed until the January 2018 meeting

### **III. GHC recruitment, introductions of prospective members, and public business not on the agenda**

Mary Ellen introduced prospective new Historical Commission members Peter Lawrence and Richard Jabba. Mary Ellen explained the procedure to be appointed as members of the Historical Commission and gave a brief synopsis of the work that the Historical Commission is engaged in.

### **IV. Follow-up on Dogtown National Register public hearing of November 29, 2017**

The public hearing was well attended. PAL submitted their technical report and request for a permit to the Massachusetts Historical Commission on December 8, 2017.

### **V. Debrief on Dogtown meeting of November 27 in the Mayor's office**

Mary Ellen summarized her meeting with the Mayor and city attorney and former watershed constable Joe Orange at the Mayor's office at City Hall on November 27. The meeting was in response to Mr. Orange's threatened lawsuit against the city. Mr. Orange opposes the public's use of the Babson watershed area in Dogtown. The Mayor envisions Dogtown as a city park in the future.

## **VI. Planning for MPPF grant, round 24, for the restoration of the Town Hall/American Legion building**

Postponed pending communication with the MHC to determine the GHC's standing.

## **VII. Updates on GHC business in-progress**

- a. FY 2018 Survey and Planning Grant** -- The GHC was denied the 2018 S&P grant. The GHC has received a commitment for the matching funds. All GHC members present expressed concerns that the grant denial will impact the in-progress National Register nominations, and that the work on Stage Fort Park will be delayed. Mary Ellen will contact the MHC for clarification.
- b. Stage Fort Park** -- The GHC is unclear of the status of the work at Stage Fort Park. The Commission has received no communication from the Stage Fort park Advisory Committee. Jude will contact Deb Laurie for a status update on the work and the archaeological survey.
- c. Salt Island** -- Salt Island has been sold to a private party for an undisclosed sum. The previous owners rejected the Essex County Greenbelt's offer to purchase the island.
- d. Sawyer Library/Saunders House** -- Mary Ellen received a thorough response to her query letter from Peter Feinstein.
- e. Cemetery Advisory Committee report** -- Mary Ellen reported on Sandy's communication that the CAC received an Awesome Gloucester grant for \$1000 and a grant for \$9500.
- f. Dogtown Advisory Committee meeting report** -- Postponed until January 2018 meeting.
- g. Community Preservation Committee meeting report** -- Postponed until January 2018 meeting.
- h. Demolition permits** -- Postponed until January 2018 meeting

- i. **2018 Preservation Awards planning** -- The 2018 Gloucester Preservation Awards will be held on Saturday May 19, 2018 at the Cape Ann Museum. The time is to be determined. All GHC members are instructed to begin considering nominations for preservation awards.
  
- j. **Meeting date Land Marks website committee** -- not discussed at this meeting.

The Gloucester Historical Commission meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM

The next Gloucester Historical Commission will be held on January 29, 2018 at 6:30 PM in the 3rd floor Conference room at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jude Seminara