

Gloucester Historical Commission
30 October 2017
Meeting Minutes

Present: Bob Whitmarsh, Mary Ellen Lepionka, Jeff Crawford, David Rhineland, Sandy Barry, Bill Remsen, Jude Seminara, Holly Clay
Guests: JD McEachern, Peter Lawrence, Peter Parsons

1. **Minutes** of September GHC Meeting: Accepted with one edit to be completed before posting.
2. **Public business not on agenda**
 - + **Annisquam Historical Association (AHS)**: Five AHS items will be included in the March – September 2018 Cape Ann history exhibition at the Cape Ann Museum. Part of a collection of Native American/Maya votives and arrowheads will be included and Mary Ellen offered to write a background entry for them.
The required Public Meeting about Annisquam’s nomination to the National Register will be held next Summer.
AHS is considering a partial restoration of its 19th c. Stage Coach for participation in Gloucester’s 400th. (Mary Ellen recommends contacting textile preservationists Mary Ellen Smiley &/or Carol White who’s at CAM.)
 - + **2016 Survey & Planning Grant**. The Dusky Foundation sent its match to the City, so the City has been fully reimbursed for financial outlay in connect with the 2016 project.
 - + **Survey and Planning Grants**: As a Certified Local Government (CLG) GHC can submit its own Form B’s (form for nominating a single property for inclusion on MACRIS, the State’s listing of historic properties. GHC will explore choosing and writing up a property and submitting its own Form B.
 - + **259 Washington Street**. GHC received a copy of a request for release of funds for an HUD capital fund project, repaving a driveway.
 - + **HUD** GHC received notice about a grant for city-wide housing rehabilitation. Release of funds from HUD (\$281,000) has been requested.
 - + **A symposium on preservation** and sustainability organiazed by architect Charles Nazarian will be held at the UU Meeting House on November 11.
 - + The GHC appreciates receiving **Jude’s Dogtown materials**, including maps and copies of a 1772 Essex advertisement about property in Dogtown.
 - + **Dogtown Common Survey & Planning Grant, 2017**.
 - Cape Ann Sportsman Club. Bill and Mary Ellen met with members to alert them that an archeologist would be investigating and might ask for access to the property.
 - Bill and Mary Ellen will appear on Cape Ann Television in an interview with Ann Robinson about the Dogtown project.

3. **GHC recruitment:** Peter Lawrence an architect who specializes in biomimicry (taking designs and learning from nature) attended the meeting and will consider becoming a GHC member.
4. **Open Meeting bylaws.** All sign forms to acknowledge receipt of changes.
5. **FY 2018 Survey & Planning Grant Application:** Members discussed the relative merits of studying the following properties and proposing them for inclusion on MACRIS. IN addition GHC voted (Holly's motion, Bill seconds) that each member will rank the following so a viable list can be compiled.
 - Stage Fort Park. Wendy Frontiero previously completed a Form A and a full archeological study is in the works, so the submission process would be streamlined.
 - Lanesville Center and Lanes Cove. This would expand on an existing area form. Numerous worthwhile properties to include: Lane's blacksmith shop (studied by archeologist Harvey Gendreau), Ahola House (7 Leverett), 8 Leverett, & quarries.
 - Folly Cove: Form A (area). 18 houses listed in MACRIS could be proposed to National Register.
 - Hodgkins Cove. Historic area that could be considered separately or included in Bayview.
 - Riverview. Study and proposal could distinguish Riverview from Wheeler's Point.
 - Eastern Point. Area form and potentially a few form "b" submissions: Beauport, T.S. Eliot and Cecilia Beau residences and Eastern Point Yacht Club.
 - Winniahdin area of West Gloucester. The term is Algonquin and means "in the vicinity of themountain." (Mount Ann) West Gloucester is represented by only two houses at this point.
 - Freshwater Cove area form and form b's for a few properties in Magnolia.
 - East Gloucester updated and expanded area form. Include houses that represent that neighborhood.
 - West Gloucester: add 2nd parish burial ground, Concord St., Walker Tide Mill.
 - Riverdale look at streets and pick out a few representative. "reconnaissance"
 - Bass Rocks and Brier Neck. Add 22 Harriet Rd (Henry Sleeper residence).
 - Inventory of municipal properties (Bill to find out from Mayor's office whether the City is undertaking this project already.)
 - Investigate expanding historic district. Bob, Bill, and Mary Ellen attended a workshop where expanding historic districts by creating Form B's for contiguous properties was suggested. GHC could prepare its own nomination based on our own form B.

Bob suggests that in addition the GHC could develop nomination papers for more than one contiguous building. Collaborating with the Historic District Commission (HDC) would be advantageous as a contiguous and expanded District would eventually be under their jurisdiction.

 - Consider properties for nomination to the National Register.

Finding a \$15,000 match: Bob will approach the Dusky Foundation.

6. **Report on NSTF-MAPS** preservation meeting Oct 19
7. **Report on Dogtown National Register Nomination** and the PAL archeological study. PAL researcher Kristen Heitert has established a preliminary plan for boundaries. The archeological survey commences the week of November 13th. The public meeting, including presentations by PAL and the MHC (Betsey Friedberg), is scheduled for 29 November at 7 pm in City Hall.

Sandy has offered to videograph.

8. Status Updates

- a. **GHC budget request:** distributed and accepted.
- b. **Meeting with the HDC:** Members suggested items to discuss at joint Nov 14 meeting, including monthly joint meetings and the prospect of working as a one entity.
- c. **Greenbelt offer on Salt Island:** A 2nd offer was made. Negotiations continue.
- d. **Stage Fort Park Archeology Survey-** No further news to report at this point.
- e. **Sanders House and Sawyer Free Library Buildings.** The situation remains unclear. David notes intra-library committee discussions continue to compare the relative merits and costs of demolition and new building construction versus renovating the existing property. Mary Ellen will draft a request (to be signed by herself and Bob as co-chairs) for a formal meeting with the Library building committee and/or the Library Board to ascertain exact intentions.
- f. **Cemetery Advisory Committee:** Oct 10
The Committee has been in contact with Edith Sparling, who worked for the DPW and the work she did on for the Fisherman's Memorial at Beechbrook and the National Register Historic Places. The Committee will begin to move forward with the application which seemed to have been stopped in mid-process.
--Donations: Public records of all donations and their applications will be kept on the Google Drive. We'll continue to work toward figuring out how best to handle this.
--SHRAB grant at First Parish: 50% done. Everything is documented. Work resumes Oct. 15th.
--Cemetery Inventory – Langsford, Second Parish, and Seaside are done. A template for reporting will be developed.
--The Committee had requested an increase in cremation fee from \$250-\$300. Joe Orlando has formally requested that no increase be charged to Veterans.
--Clark's Cemetery:-- The site plan that considered Japanese knotweed concluded the knotweed is not in the buffer zone. Richard Clark orally reported that Clark's is NOT in a wetland or wetland buffer zone. A stairway from the Oval to Clark's is planned. Joe Orlando found a volunteer carpenter and DPW/Mike Hale is supplying materials. Joe is also organizing a major clean-up in Clark's/First Parish.

g. **Dogtown Advisory Committee**: October 18

h. **Community Preservation Commission (CPC)**: Oct 17

Status of CPA projects-in-process and reports reviewed. A few older projects have reached completion, while work on others moves along slowly. A 2016 Sargent House project to repair outdoors deck and stone steps was completed. The amount of a second, 2017 CPC grant recommendation for roof repairs will be reduced, as in the meantime Sargent House received a grant from the MHC as well for the roof .

i. **Building Inspector/Zoning Board** liaison for demolitions.

The Building Inspector has not returned phone calls to discuss GHC and demolitions in Gloucester.

Permission for demolition was granted for 742 Washington Street.

Owners Ricci & Elisabeth Accardi. Attorney Deborah Eliason and architect Robert Gulla attended. This property is not structurally sound and sits on deteriorated pilings.

9. **2018 Preservation Award Candidates**: Holly and Bill are following up on candidate suggestions.

10. **Land Marks** website subcommittee

Next Meeting: November 27, 2017, third floor conference room, City Hall 6:30