

Gloucester Historical Commission

30 April 2018

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

1. Minutes of the March 26th GHC Meeting: accepted with amendments.
2. Public Business not on the Agenda and CPA grant participant recommendations
 - +David Rineland attended Gloucester 400th Anniversary planning meeting. He would like to submit Mary Ellen's Enduring Gloucester pieces on early settlements of Gloucester to the committee.
 - +No CPC requests for letters recommendation
 - +Peter's interview to be a new Commission member has taken place
 - +Jude asks whether a map has been developed or could be developed that shows where boulevard houses were on the Boulevard then also where they were removed. Following up with building relocation permits may provide a key. Mary Ellen believes Pru Fish has the information.
3. Preview of Slide Show for Preservation Awards 2018. All is in order
4. Finalization of Preservation Awards Program: Holly will forward to CAM, Courtney Richardson and Leon Doucette, for printing the Program. Bob will forward information, owner's name etc, about the Washington Street house in Lanesville to Holly and Mary Ellen.
5. Finalization of Demolition Delay Ordinance Proposal.
6. +Peter suggests sending it to Ken Hecht as a first step; Peter will deliver the proposal Val Gillman and Paul Lundberg.
 - + Peter noted: When Jim Destino, City Administrative Officer, was on City Council, he proposed an ordinance didn't receive votes necessary to become law.
 - +Jude suggested we include statistics on the number/percentage of Gloucester-sized communities in MA with Demolition Delay ordinances. Jude found MHC map showing cities with demolition delay. It looks to include almost all the cities and towns in eastern Massachusetts. That is, roughly 75/85 percent of Eastern MA towns and most all towns with strong historic roots. 146 in MA, out of approximately 351 cities and towns, have ordinances.
 - +GHC will try to determine percentage of buildings 75 years or older that have ordinances and Mary Ellen will include that figure in the intro letter that accompanies the proposal. She will send the letter and proposal to Enza in the Mayor's office to distribute to City Councilors.
 - +GHC members agree that the value of historic preservation serves as a good counter argument to suggestion that demolition delay discourages business or inhibits project progress.
 - +Mary Ellen suggests developing a slide show demonstrating results from buildings being torn down.
 - +Holly will contact Beth Welin and ask her to share her power point presentation on Urban Renewal which addresses various facets of demolition and its aftermath.

7. GHC will review Bill Remsen's recommendations for GHC policies and procedures that is drawn from a Field Reports form used in previous field projects. GHC hopes to keep as the form as a digital file in our archive. Mary Ellen proposes that each of us brings a copy of the form and commission members discuss how to finalize it for GHC use.
8. Updates
 - a. 2018 Dogtown Days May 5, 2-4 at Cape Ann Museum. Subject matter includes Archaeology, History, Art, National Register, Stewardship, Ecology. May 6 will be on site at Dogtown (Cherry Street Entrance) beginning at 10 am including a "ribbon cutting" for the bridge over the stream with the Mayor.
 - b. Dogtown Archaeology: The project and report are moving apace. The invoice for Phase 2 has been received and passed on.
 - c. Stage Fort Park Archaeological Survey. The University of MA Amherst, with Eric Johnson, won the bid to conduct the Survey. The contract is in order. The GHC will follow the project's progress through the phases described in the proposal.
 - d. Cemetery Advisory Committee
 - +The Sons of the American Revolution are scheduled to pay a visit. Plans to make a plaque for Revolutionary War patriots in the First Parish Cemetery are underway.
 - +The National Park Service will return this August (proposed August 3 & 4) to train volunteers and trainees. Participants will repair and re-right gravestones.
 - +Jude visited the Cape Ann Chapter of the DAR and presented on Shipwrecks of Cape Ann.
 - e. Sawyer Library Building Committee: Bill reports that the Library, on the advice of the Saunders House committee, hired the architectural firm Spencer, Sullivan, Voigt to do space and ADA compliance analyses of the Saunders House. Conservation of murals has been added to the scope of work.

Bill notes fundamental conflicts between library factions, with a group wanting to separate Saunders and replace the Monell building, still exists.
 - f. Development of Land Marks publication. Next meeting.
9. Unfinished Business;
 - a. Candidates for new single-property Local Historic Districts
 - b. Recruitment of qualified new commission members

Suggested Beth Welin, Stephanie Buck, Keri Herrmann. Ask them to come and share their work and projects.

Mary Ellen would like to see an expert(s) on the Commission who will attend conferences and report back with advances in the field of historic restoration and preservation
 - c. Meetinghouse Green Sign. No updates.

Next Meeting: Monday June 25