

Gloucester Historical Commission

May 1, 2023, 6:30 PM

Held remotely via Zoom

Called to order at 6:32 PM

Present: Bob Whitmarsh, Lillian Olmsted, Susan Morreale, Ralph Pisaturo, Jude Seminara

Absent: David Rhineland

Guests: Tim Quinn, Jeremy Fontaine (Environmental Compliance Officer Massachusetts Bay Transportation), Karen Ristuben (Program Director, Creative County Initiative, Essex County Community Foundation)

Approval of March 27, 2023, Minutes

The Minutes for both the March and February GCS meetings were unanimously approved. A motion for approval was made by Ralph and second by Jude.

MBTA request for a Historic Railroad Bridge Signage

The MBTA asked that the GHC review and comment on the design package that was provided on the historic railroad bridge signage planned to be installed on MBTA property at the Gloucester station and asked for a letter stating GHC's concurrence that the proposed sign meets Stipulation 2 of the MOA.

Jude made a motion to approve. Bob seconded and the motion passed unanimously

Determination of historical significance of WPA murals and city-owned sculptures and plaques

Karen Ristuben (Program Director, Creative County Initiative, Essex County Community Foundation) asked for a determination that the WPA murals and city-owned sculptures and plaques are historically significant to the city of Gloucester. They are requesting a letter to support a request for funds from the CPA and state funding to preserve the historic artifacts.

The funding will provide an inventory of the bronze plaques and murals, as well as the restoration of 2 murals

GHC unanimously approve the historical significance, Bob will write the letter. Motion was made by Jude and second by Bob

Stage Fort Canon site

A motion was made to invite a representative of the Stage Fort Park Advisory Committee to present their plans to the GHC and in support of the statement that the GHC stands ready to assist in the future to help preserve the historic site and artifacts of the park.

Jude made a motion to approve. Bob seconded and the motion passed unanimously

Jude to send a letter to the Park Advisory Committee with the invitation.

Historic Structure Preservation Ordinance. Review updated proposal and next steps

Ralph presented the edits to the draft ordinance. It was determined that the next step is to present the updated proposal to Mayor Verga.

Update on sign for "Green"

Bob announced that the sign is scheduled to be installed on the Green soon. After the GHC meeting Bob circulated an email stating that the sign had been installed.

Jude motioned to adjourn the meeting. Bob seconded. All voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

The date of the next meeting of the Gloucester Historical Commission is to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,
Ralph Pisaturo