

TOWN OF WEYMOUTH, MA.  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 16, 2023  
TUFTS LIBRARY - 7:00 PM

RECEIVED  
2024 FEB 29 P 4:02  
TOWN OF WEYMOUTH  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Present: Jim Clarke, Mark Schneider, Cathy Torrey, Kerri Donnelly, Jenn Donovan, Steve McCloskey, Zach Gerg  
Staff: Harrison Carter, Mayor's Office - Grant Manager

1. Introduction - Jim called the meeting to order at 7PM. He introduced the new member of the commission, Zachary Gerg. He noted that due to several guests attending, he would adjust the agenda to address their issues first.
2. Historic House Sign - 44 Summer Street. Sally Firzpatrick, owner and applicant for the house sign, presented her request. She stated that she had seen other house signs and felt that her house met the criteria for a sign. The house is in the Front Street National Register Historic District and is very old. She has some documents that identify it as being built around 1768. Jim said that it is a contributing structure in the Front Street nomination but is noted as being built around 1830. Jim asked Sally if she could submit paperwork to the Planning Office that refers to the 1768 date and the commission would review the material to confirm the date. Either date would make it eligible for a house plaque. A motion was made by Kerri, seconded by Cathy, to approve the plaque application pending the review and confirmation of the building date. So voted unanimously.
3. VFW Hall, Broad Street. Jim introduced Harrison Carter, Grant Manager from the Mayor's Office, to discuss the plans for the VFW Hall. Harrison thanked the commission for submitting a letter of support for their application for a \$35,000 state grant to assess the building condition and future use. He stated

that it was built in the 1870's as a fire station and for many years was a VFW Hall. The VFW has closed and the property has reverted to the town. The Mayor would like to save the building and has suggested using it as a military museum, highlighting Weymouth's involvement in military actions, and as the Veterans Office. He referenced the GAR museum in Hingham as an example to follow. Kerri asked if it was occupied and Harrison noted that it was not. Harrison was looking for assistance from the commission as this project proceeds. Cathy asked whether details such as staffing had been explored and what type of advice were they expecting from the commission. Harrison stated that they were engaging the New England Conservation Center on museum programming and plan to use McKinnell, McKinnell, and Taylor as architects. Steve asked about the results of the community survey. Harrison said that there were 1,093 responses with 83% support for the concept. Jim stated that the commission wanted to have a role in the use and programming for the building. He wanted to see how the building could be preserved and restored. Mark noted the long history of the building and various uses in the town. Jim thanked Harrison for the presentation.

4. Election of Officers. Jim turned the meeting over to Kerri, as Secretary, to conduct the election of the Chair. Kerri asked for nominations and Cathy nominated Jim for Chair, seconded by Zach. So voted unanimously. Mark nominated Cathy for Vice-Chair, seconded by Zach. So voted unanimously. Zach nominated Kerri for Secretary, seconded by Cathy. So voted unanimously. Mark moved to appoint Cathy to the CPC, seconded by Kerri. So voted unanimously. Jim suggested that he remain on the Cemetery Commission for now and that they would revisit that later in the year.
5. Minutes. Cathy made a motion to approve the minutes of 11/21/23, seconded by Steve. So voted unanimously.
6. Rice Tavern. Jim reported that he had met with the Mayor, Planning Office, and Rick McLeod with several parties interested in the tavern to discuss

options for the building. Jim plans to meet with Jim Bristol at the tavern and inspect and measure the older tavern portion. Additional review of options and costs is still underway.

7. Emery Estate. Jenn reported that the committee will meet on January 18. The committee is working on a Civil War related event and a quilting event in the spring and the ghost tours are continuing. Zach asked about the plans for the building. Cathy mentioned that she had been on an earlier committee that had prepared a business plan for use of the building but those efforts halted. The building structure is sound but the building is not being maintained. Committee members expressed concern that the building be maintained and preserved.
8. Newsletter. Kerri stated that the newsletter went out today. She mentioned that an email response was received. Jim reported on some upcoming events at the library and hoped others would be willing to write stories for the newsletter.
9. CPC report. Cathy stated that the annual public hearing will be held in February. Jim reported that the Walling map was still being restored and hoped that it would be ready for display soon.
10. Demolition Delay. Jim reported that Eric needs to contact those who objected to listing to see if they want to proceed with the hearing process.
11. Development Update. There was no update as Eric was at the Planning Board meeting.
12. Other Business. On the vault organization, Kerri was checking to see if her new position qualified her to oversee an intern from Simmons. This would help the Clerk's staff and might start over the summer. Jim asked for some advice on getting students involved and members suggested talking to Quincy and Hingham as they seem to have some success in this matter. Mark updated the members on his research on anti-slavery activities in Weymouth. Zach gave a brief bio and members shared their backgrounds.

13. Next Meeting. February 27. Jim suggested trying to meet at the Fogg Library.

14. Adjournment. Cathy motioned to adjourn at 8:17, seconded by Jenn. So voted unanimously.



James Clarke, Chair  
Weymouth Historical Commission

2/27/24

Date