

Historical Commission for the Town of Provincetown

Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday, January 29, 2020;
Bow Sprit Room, Provincetown Public Library

Attending: Julia Perry, Chair; Stephen Borkowski, Vice Chair; Susan Avellar, Anika Costa, Deborah Minsky

Absent Excused: Polly Burnell

Called to Order at 5:01 P.M.

1. Public Comments -
 - a. Grace Ryder O'Malley appeared on behalf of the Provincetown Art Association Museum (PAAM) to request a letter of support from the Historical Commission regarding the application to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for funds to restore the historic facade of the original building of the Art Association. Because the matter was not on the Agenda, the Commission voted 5-0-0 (Motion by Stephen Borkowski, second by Deborah Minsky) to move the vote on the proposal from Other Business to immediate action and voted 5-0-0 (Motion by Stephen Borkowski, second by Susan Avellar) to approve providing a letter of support.
 - b. Thaddeus Soule, the new Town Planner for the Town of Provincetown introduced himself and was invited by the Commission to stay and observe.
2. The Commission reviewed a letter from CBRE, writing on behalf of AT&T Mobility, LLC, seeking our input on the proposed installation of a new 37-foot pole along with the installation of ancillary equipment in the vicinity of the parking lot behind Napi's Restaurant along Freeman Street. The Commission voted 5-0-0 (Motion by Deborah Minsky, second by Anika Costa) to provide a letter of no objection to the replacement of the existing pole with the proposed pole, as stated in the proposal, conditioned on removal of the existing pole.
3. There was a brief discussion on the status of the need to reinstate the work of the History Project - still awaiting a new computer for the work area in the basement of the Library. Julia will confirm with Amy Raff, the Librarian, that the new computer has been installed and contact Doug Johnstone to teach a refresher course in inputting new information to the History Project. The Commission also authorized Julia to discuss with Beau Jakkett, the Town's Director of Management Information Systems, the steps necessary to improve the search function of the History Project material.
4. The Commission acknowledges the gift of Sandra Caputo - a 1979 Directory of Town Businesses.

5. The Commission reviewed a Proposal drafted by the Chair to fund a study to determine how to adequately store and display the historic artifacts of the Town. The Commission voted to submit the Proposal to the Town Manager, with a copy to the Select Board by a vote of 5-0-0 (Motion by Susan Avellar, second by Deborah Minsky).
6. The Commission discussed with the visiting Town Planner the need to put the Freeman Building on a long-term comprehensive plan for restoration.
7. The Chair was reminded of the need for proposed language for the didactic panels at First Landing Park.
8. The Chair was reminded of the desire of the Commission to submit a letter or proposed article about George Bryant's involvement with pushing for the restoration of the Bas Relief Memorial prior to the celebration of 2020.
9. The Chair was informed that the Community Housing Specialist is looking for informative language for the Bas Relief didactic panels.
10. Stephen Borkowski is responding to a request from the National Trust about sites that are connected with women artists with information about Blanche Lazzell.
11. The Commission wishes to recognize the death of Barbara Stern Shapiro, the curator of the show From Paris to Provincetown about the circle of white-line artists, including Blanche Lazzell.
12. The Commission authorized Stephen Borkowski to talk to Amy Raff, Town Librarian, about moving the maps in the room used for the book sales to a more prominent spot.
13. It was requested that a discussion of the Gift Fund balances be included in each Meeting's Agenda.
14. Minutes for December 11 were approved as amended by a vote of 5-0-0.
15. A proposal to move future meetings to 5:30 to allow those members who are working adequate time to attend was approved.
16. It was confirmed that the intention is for all future meetings be scheduled to take place the last Wednesday of the month. The proposed meetings for remainder of 2020 are as follows (the Commission does not meet during July and August due to the other commitments of the Members unless determined necessary, and not during December due to the holidays and personal travel of the Members): February 26, March 25, April 29, May 27, June 24, September 30, October 28, and November 18 (moved from the last Wednesday due to Thanksgiving).

Adjourned at 6:45.