

Provincetown Historical Commission
March 2, 2007
Minutes

Meeting called to order 9:00 AM

Members Present: Polly Burnell, Eric Dray, Austin Knight, Stephen Milkewicz, Taylor Polites

Members Absent: Char Priolo (unexcused)

Also present: Matt Mulvey, Maxine Notaro

1. Interim Building Commissioner Matt Mulvey

Maxine Notaro introduced the interim Building Commissioner Matt Mulvey who recently began work after the resignation of Doug Taylor. Mulvey described his background and experience to the Commission. Dray and others noted the importance of Provincetown's historic buildings and stressed that the Building Department should focus on preservation wherever possible. Mulvey agreed and stated he would work closely with the Building Inspector to scrutinize all demolition requests and to better monitor the permitting process for structures in the Historic District.

- Dray also requested clarification on the treatment of windows for buildings in the Historic District and Mulvey responded that he would look into it and get back to the Commission.

2. Approval of Minutes

Knight moved to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2007 meeting. Polites seconded.

Vote: 4-0-0

3. Update on Town Buildings

Dray updated the Commission on the status of the belfry restoration project at the Provincetown Public Library. A bid had been received and the Library Trustees were waiting for additional bids before proceeding. Dray also recommended that photographs of the Library when it was the Center United Methodist Church would also be helpful for the Library Trustees when considering options for restoring the landscaping in front of the building.

- Burnell offered to contact John Dowd as a resource for old photographs of the Church.
- Knight updated the Commission on Firehouse No. 2. He will be meeting soon with the building commissioner to inspect the Firehouse and make an assessment of its structural viability and report back to the Commission.

4. CPC Updated

Knight updated the Commission on the CPC Funding requests to be presented to voters at Town Meeting. He noted that all items that the Commission had voted on had been approved by the CPC and will be presented at Town Meeting.

5. Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District

The Commission discussed the current review of the status of the Dune Shacks in the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District. The Dune Shacks are currently under consideration by the National Register of Historic Places to be given Traditional Cultural Property status in addition to their admission to the National Register. An open discussion ensued regarding what the Traditional Cultural Property status conveys to the Shacks as well as their current occupants. Polites expressed concern that the TCP designation could lead to the treatment of the shacks as private property by the current occupants and result in their ultimate heritability. Dray suggested that the term community and who comprised the community of dune shack users was the key to the debate regarding the occupants of the shacks and the TCP designation. However, he suggested that the structures strictly defined truly represent a Traditional Cultural Property.

Polites moved that Dray draft a letter to the Keeper of the National Register supporting the Traditional Cultural Property designation for the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District.

Vote: 5-0-0

6. Strategic Planning for Historical Commission

Dray opened a discussion of the goals of the Commission. Among the most critical items are the need to create a pamphlet written jointly by the Commission and the Historic District Commission detailing the building codes and regulations that structures within the Historic District are subject to. In addition, Burnell noted that a comprehensive and usable reference of the Survey of Town Buildings is urgently needed to assist the Historic District Commission in its review process.

- Polites offered to review the current Survey of Town Buildings and make an effort to assess what work needs to be done to make a complete survey available. He agreed to report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: Friday, March 30, 2007 9:00 AM