

**Provincetown Historical Commission**  
**October 19, 2007**  
**Minutes**

Meeting called to order 9:00 AM

Members Present: Stephen Borkowski, Polly Burnell, Steve Desroches, Eric Dray, Steven Milkewicz, Taylor Polites and Char Priolo

Also Present: Doug Johnstone

**1. Approval of Agenda**

Polites moved to approve the agenda. Priolo seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Milkewicz made a motion to approve the minutes of October 5, 2007. Priolo seconded.

Vote: 5-0-0

**3. Public Statements**

There were no public statements.

**4. Oral History Project**

Polites reported that Deb DeJonker-Berry, Director of the Provincetown Public Library, had found a booklet regarding successful oral history projects that she would share with him. He stated as soon as he had the booklet, he would pass on the information to other members of the Commission. Priolo and Desroches reported they were planning on meeting to discuss the project soon.

**5. History Preservation Project**

Polites updated the Commission regarding the continued progress of the document conversions related to the History Preservation Project. Johnstone informed the Commission he was going to be pricing high density storage units to maximize the archival storage space in the basement of the Library for the Josephine C. Del Deo Archive.

**6. History Summit**

Copies of discussion points developed by Desroches and Polites were circulated to the Commission to open discussions regarding format and goals of the Summit. A discussion ensued regarding the purpose and format of the Summit. Dray and other Commission members expressed approval regarding the goals detailed in the document. Dray added that this was an opportunity for the Commission to promote historic preservation as an

important component of long-term community goals for economic development. He also stressed the importance of making the Summit fun and interesting for the attendees. Johnstone noted the importance of developing a sense of community and cooperation rather than competition that could be reinforced at the Summit.

Potential formats for the meeting were also discussed. Borkowski stressed the importance of defining tangible goals for discussion among the individuals attending the Summit. He stated that the Commission needs to be the leader of the Summit and of the development of long-term strategic goals that the attendees can focus on. He reiterated the importance of making the Summit relevant to the attendees and of providing them with concrete discussion points rather than open-ended, theoretical topics.

Desroches and Polites agreed to incorporate the points raised into the discussion points and return to the Commission for a review of the changes.

## **7. Acquisition Policy for Town Archives**

Polites reported that he had spoken with Terry French at the Massachusetts Historical Commission and with two towns regarding their acquisition policies related to town-owned archives. French said in his experience most communities accepted new acquisitions by a vote of the Board of Selectmen. He noted that Boston had a municipal entity in charge of review and acceptance of archives donated to the city. French stressed the importance of developing a sound and focused acquisition policy to be used in determining what artifacts were appropriate acquisitions for a community.

Polites also reported that the members of the town administration in Truro and Brewster had responded, stating that when historical items are donated to the town, they go before the Board of Selectmen.

Polites stated that he believed an appropriate structure for acquisitions would be to empower the Commission with the ability to review and recommend to the Board of Selectmen any donations of historical archives. He also recommended that the Commission begin drafting an acquisition policy.

Dray stated he would post a request for information on the MHC listserve.

Johnstone presented the Commission with a letter from Tim McCarthy of the Provincetown Theater providing high-level detail regarding the documents available for acquisition by the Town. The Commission agreed that a physical review of the documents would be necessary before a determination could be made regarding their acquisition.

## **8. Joint Meeting with Historic District Commission**

The Commission agreed to request a joint meeting with the HDC for November 7<sup>th</sup> from 3pm to 4pm.

## **9. New Business**

Dray updated the Commission regarding the Form B for the Murchison House. He said he had the completed form and would submit it with the brochures and descriptions provided to him by Polites.

Desroches updated the Commission regarding the Chico-Jess. He stated that he had emailed the Harbor Master, Rex McKinsey, providing him with the Commission's encouragement to acquire and preserve the vessel. He also forwarded an email from Polites to Desroches describing a conversation Polites had with Josephine Del Deo regarding potential uses of the vessel if acquired by the Pier Corporation.

There being no more business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

**Next Meeting: Friday, November 2, 2007 9:00 AM**

### **Action Items**

- Priolo will begin collecting detailed information on the existing oral histories to create an inventory of them.
- Johnson stated she would make an effort to inventory her oral histories. Burnell offered to assist her in this inventory.
- Burnell stated that she will bring in a list of names to begin an effort to identify individuals who should be interviewed on a priority basis.
- Dray also noted that he wanted to convene a joint meeting between the HC and the Historic District Commission to discuss ways to help the HDC in their work.
- Desroches agreed to contact Rafter to discuss the possibility of moderating the History Summit.
- The OHP subcommittee will produce a management plan and present it to the Commission in the near future.