

MINUTES: Waltham Historical Commission Meeting
December 11, 2017

1. Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM
2. Call of the Roll:
Present: Commissioner Isaacson, Commissioner Russo, Commissioner Dufromont, Commissioner Cox, Commissioner Wilson, Commissioner Daly
Absent: Commissioner Holmes
3. Reading and acceptance of the minutes of November, 2017 minutes
Corrections:
 - Commissioner Cox was also present
 - #4 item 2: original building from the Estate; should read: original building from the Lawton Estate.
 - #6 a: second motion: Motion to list the property on the National Register; should read: Motion to look into listing the property on the National Register.
 - Recess-meeting reconvened at; should be struck out, since there was no recess
 - #7: Commissioner Daly recused herself as she is a member of the Land Trust; should read: Commissioner Daly recused herself as she is a board member of the Land Trust.
 - #9 Edu & Outreach: Jack Cox spoke about a communication he received from Rebecca the new person at the Lyman Estate; should read: Jack Cox spoke about a communication he received from Rebecca Clower the new person at the Lyman Estate.
*Motion to accept the minutes as corrected, made by Commissioner Dufromont
Second: Commissioner Cox
In favor: ALL Against: None Abstain: None Recused: None
4. Chair: Reading and description of correspondence:
 - a. A descendant from California of the Judge Clark family, whose house still stands on the Stigmatine property, has photographs of the property and will send copies to the Historical Commission.
 - b. The Historical Commission was contacted by Rebecca Migdal, who recently moved into the area and who has a degree in museum and public history, would like to volunteer for the Historical Commission.
 - c. Commissioner Daly stated that Wayne McCarthy offered to print photographs at the high school for the Historical Commission.
5. Stonehurst: Monthly Report, Stonehurst Curator Ann Clifford
Summary: A report was read and submitted by Ann Clifford
Ann Clifford made some additions since the report was sent last week, and presented a hard copy of her report. She also displayed maps outlining the Robert Treat Paine Estate, Chester Brook Woods, the High School site, and portions of the former Camp Ted that were taken by eminent domain by the City of Waltham. Speaking about the sewer project, Ms. Clifford suggested the Historical Commission write a letter or e-mail to the Water and Sewer Department urging care be taken regarding the archaeological resources and drainage system at Stonehurst that are in the pathway of the pipe.
*Motion by Commissioner Cox to write a letter to the Water and Sewer Department informing them that historic resources are located in the area of work.
Second: Commissioner Russo
In favor: ALL Against: None Abstain: None Recused: None

There was a discussion regarding the estimate of \$1,500 for design work for repairing the Kitchen Wing and Bryant Wing corner post. Ms. Clifford said there should be enough existing contingency funds in the budget, without having to prepare a CPA application. The Building Department also identified problems that need to be addressed with the post on the south loggia (2nd floor porch), and in the attic with the shed dormer, but the Historical Commission does not need to do anything at this time. Report was submitted to the Secretary by the Curator.

6. Wellington House: A report, prepared by Pam Lyons, was read and submitted to the Historical Commission by Commissioner Isaacson. The WHC is currently awaiting an occupancy permit before allowing any visitors to the house.

Parking: Commissioner Isaacson commended the CPW for having plowed the driveway after the recent snowstorm. Situating a parking area within the foundation walls of the former barn was discussed. The area is overgrown with trees and brush. The city has an arborist, and the tree removal could be handled in-house. The barn foundation area could accommodate about 6 or 7 cars, and the total area could accommodate about 15 automobiles. Although the occupancy of the house was approved for 49 people and up to 100 on occasion, the Historical Commission would have to limit the number of people due to parking constraints.

*Motion by Commissioner Cox to approve the removal of trees in the barn foundation area

Seconded by Commissioner Dufromont.

Discussion on the motion regarding possible historic resources in the proposed parking area.

*Motion amended by Commissioner Cox that the trees be removed and stumps ground down without disturbing the soil or the stone walls.

In favor: ALL Against: None Abstain: None Recused: None

Handicapped parking: Commissioner Isaacson suggested that handicapped parking be located on the concrete slab next to the house, and noted there is a handicapped ramp already situated behind the slab area. There are plans to place a fence at the edge to prevent people from falling off the 6-inch drop. However, there is no space to turn around, and it is a long way to back out. Possibility of expanding slab area will be investigated.

*Motion by Commissioner Wilson to accept placing the handicapped parking area with some railing next to the house.

Seconded by Commissioner Cox.

In favor: ALL Against: None Abstain: None Recused: None

WHC will forward the approval of the handicapped parking area to Mark Johnson of the Disability Services Commission.

Capital improvement budget:

A tentative capital improvement budget was submitted by Commissioner Isaacson.

Commissioner Isaacson reported that the Historical Commission needs to develop a 5-year capital improvement budget for the Wellington House, since Mayor McCarthy wishes to centralize this under the Historical Commission. Although it is difficult to anticipate the furnishings without a plan for the use of the house, tables and chairs and kitchen facilities would most likely be required by any use. For restoration related to the history of the house, the Commission could use the \$41,000 of CPA funds, if these are still available. In reviewing the submitted, proposed budget, commissioners pointed out that utilities are operating expenses,

not capital expenditures. Commissioner Cox suggested Pam Lyons contact the City Auditor regarding possible review of upcoming costs and will e-mail this request to Ms. Lyons. Discussion took place of possible uses of the Wellington House by Waltham groups, charges, booking and managing the facility, to be determined in the future. The WHC may hold some meetings, but not relocate office.

7. Liaison & Subcommittee Reports:

Fernald: Commission Isaacson reported that the Mayor has made some proposals for the usage of the buildings on the campus, and she sent these to the City Council, which has tabled them.

CPC: The CPC has voted to expend some funds for projects.

Historic Inventory Subcommittee:

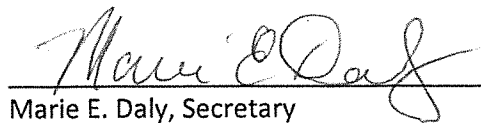
A report regarding the status of the stonewall survey was read and submitted to the Historical Commission by Commissioner Daly. Pam Lyons is currently awaiting responses to the references of one of the bidders. Commissioner Daly also reported that the IT department is working to upload and geo-reference the Sanderson map of the 1636 lot lines to the city website. These could then be coordinated with the GPS coordinates of the stone walls to identify stone walls that run along the 1636 lot lines. Moving through map layers that show the stone walls, the Sanderson lot map and the current GIS maps would be interesting.

Education & Outreach: Commissioner Russo looked at Wellesley historic house plaques, which cost \$50/each and for which homeowners paid \$25/each. Their plaques are square and made from a composite material, which may be less expensive, and therefore more attractive to homeowners. In Wellesley, the difference between the cost and the homeowner payment was funded through Community Preservation Act funds. Commissioner Wilson stated that, in Waltham, CPA funds cannot be used for new markers on historic buildings. Commissioner Isaacson pointed out that the plaques alert people to the historic value of the houses, and help preserve the houses from demolition. Commissioner Russo will contact the Wellesley vendor to determine if he would make plaques for other towns, and also check with Wellesley to see if there was any push back regarding the use of CPA funds. Commissioner Isaacson recommended looking at Google Street View to find some of the houses with the plaques, and evaluate how they appear.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marie E. Daly", is written over a horizontal line.

Marie E. Daly, Secretary
Prepared by Marie E. Daly