



Waltham Historical Commission

610 Main Street
Waltham, MA 02452

Minutes: September 8, 2014 (DRAFT MINUTES, NOT YET APPROVED BY BOARD)

In attendance: Commissioners Alex Green (Chairman), Marie Daly, Mort Isaacson, Sean Wilson, Jack Cox (interim secretary)

Paine Estate curator Ann Clifford

Motion by Mr. Isaacson, second by Ms. Daly, to accept the minutes from the July 14 meeting. All in favor.

Demolition Hearing: 46 Wellington Street

Chairman Green summarized the Commission's responsibility in re: to the property.

Atty. Laura Cannon, 685 Main Street represented the owner of 46 Wellington Street. She stated that the property does not have significant architectural importance and that the house has deteriorated for years. She asked that the Commission rule that the house does not fall within the definition of a preferably preserved property.

Ms. Daly believes that the property is not architecturally significant. However, the original owner, Adelman Clark, was a prominent businessman and mason in the city.

Motion by Mr. Isaacson, second by Ms. Daly, that the property is historically significant but is not preferably preserved. All in favor.

550 Winter Street: David Ford representing AT&T

Mr. Ford discussed the antennas that will be placed on the roof, fully camouflaged.

Motion by Mr. Isaacson, second by Ms. Daly, to move approval of the application. All in favor.

James J. Harold Bridge: Hines Corporation – re-presentation of applicant's plan for lighting at Farwell Street

Chairman Green: Plaques are up on the bridge and brush has been cleared which revealed graffiti. The Commission had wanted to install solar lights, but Ms. Cagle did not agree.

Mr. David Perry (Hines Corp.): He will be meeting with Ms. Cagle on Wednesday and anticipates a final decision on lighting the bridge. The Commission will have the opportunity to vote on a final plan. He stated that all of Hines's plans meet the Secretary of the Interior's standards.

Atty. Mike Connors: There have been three extensions of the process. The bridge must be finalized before the new building can be occupied.

Banks School re: review for signoff of proposed occupancy

Mayor McCarthy: The restoration of the school has been completed and is ready for occupancy. No changes have been made to the older side of the building. The fire escape has been taken down. The glass in the windows has been changed, but not the window frames. The monuments in front of the building will be preserved. The units in the Banks School will be for those 62 years old and older. The parking lot has not been completed.

Motion by Mr. Isaacson, that the Banks School does have historical significance due to its architecture, association of its name with a famous person, and its role in the social history of Waltham. Second by Mr. Wilson, all in favor.

Ms. Clifford's Report

Ms. Clifford presented a detailed report on the history of the city's involvement with the Paine House, focusing on the involvement of historian Dr. Margaret Henderson Floyd. Please see attached.

Mr. Cox commended Ms. Clifford for welcoming hundreds of Waltham's school children to the estate every year, and for preparing programs that increase their appreciation of the history of Stonehurst.

Motion by Ms. Daly, second by Mr. Isaacson, to accept Ms. Clifford's report and enter it into the record. All in favor.

Planning Department Request re: historic input for for master inventory on recreational/open space lands

Chairman Green thanked Ms. Daly for her work on preparing a list of significant conservation land in Waltham. The Trustees of the Reservations was originally founded to preserve Waverley Oaks.

Mr. Cox mentioned the possibility of including Fox Island and the Chemistry Park on the list. Mr. Isaacson suggested adding to the list the trestle bridge by the Bleachery, Clark's Pond, the small park at the Lyman Estate along Beaver Street, and the Chester Brook corridor.

Motion by Mr. Isaacson, second by Mr. Cox, to approve the Recreational/Open Space Land Inventory. All in favor.

Fernald School letter and documents for Community Preservation

Ms. Daly recused herself. This item was moved to the start of the agenda.

Motion by Mr. Isaacson, second by Sean Wilson, to approve the letter and documents to be forwarded to the CPC and the Mayor. All in favor.

Wellington House: letter of request for occupancy of Wellington House by WHC

Chairman Green asked for a letter of request for occupancy of the Wellington House. The floors are the last major repair needed at the house. He wants the Commission to use the house (passively).

Mr. Isaacson would like to see the house before he votes on the proposal.

Wellington House: request from Chair for audio equipment contingent on occupancy

Chairman Green would like to purchase audio equipment. The cost will be under \$1000.

Citywide Inventory and Survey discussion

Chairman Green: We need to extend our city-wide inventory and survey . . . possibly apply for CPC funds. The cost is about \$100 per property. The areas that are critical are the center of the city and the South Side, the Lanes, the area around the Gore Estate, and the Lexington Street/Trapelo Road area.

Coordinated removal of documents from 21 Lexington Street to Bright School

The Commission will discuss this next month.

Old Business:

Demolition Workshop

Chairman Green will attend. It will be held in Weston.

Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Daly, second by Mr. Cox, to adjourn the meeting (9:05). All in favor.