



City of Chelsea
Chelsea Historical Commission
 City Hall, Room 101, 500 Broadway
 Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150

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Ilana Ascher
 Lee Farrington
 Alison Greenbaum
 Frances Mascolo
 George Ostler
 Ronald Robinson
 Christine Swistro

John DePriest, AICP
 Staff

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MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2017

I. Call to Order

The Chelsea Historic Commission was called to order by John DePriest, at 6:33 p.m. on Tuesday, February 7, 2017 in Room 102 of Chelsea City Hall, 500 Broadway, with the following members in attendance: Ilana Ascher, Lea Farrington, Frances Mascolo, George Ostler, Ronald Robinson, and Christine Swistro.

Present from the Department of Planning and Development was John DePriest, Director. Also present, Mary Bourque, Superintendent, Chelsea School Department.

Mr. DePriest informed the Commission that Alison Greenbaum resigned because she is moving out of the City.

II. Approval of Minutes of January 3, 2017 Meeting

The Commission reviewed the minutes. On a motion made by Christine Swistro and seconded by Frances Mascolo, it was voted, unanimously (6-0-0) to approve the minutes.

III. Follow up to Clark Ave School historic artifact preservation plan discussion.

The Commission voted to take this item out of order. Mary Bourque explained that the builders are well into the removal of materials from the building in preparation for demolition. Two items were identified by the review committee to review again. The first - the city seal above the front door - was identified as a possible feature to save. Analysis found that erosion and acid rain made it difficult to remove without considerable damage. The cost of removal is about \$24,000, whether it can be salvaged or not. A decision has been made to not salvage it. The team is looking at possibly replicating the seal for the new building. The team will create a 3D model of the old school, which will probably be on display in the Public Library. The second item that was reviewed was the molding around the doors on the balcony. They were identified as neither historic nor architecturally significant and would cost \$5,000 per door to salvage. The moldings will not be salvaged.

IV. Election of Officers

The Commission discussed the election and the following slate was proposed:

Ron Robinson – Chair, Ilana Ascher -Vice-Chair, and Frances Mascolo– Clerk

On a motion by Lea Farrington and seconded by Christine Swistro, it was voted unanimously (6-0-0) to approve the slate of officers.

V. Discussion of 2017 Commission Action Plan

The Chair discussed the need to preserve the history of the Chelsea Creek, to develop a brochure to make public the history, to have markers identify key sites. Mr. Ostler indicated that the markers may be in the storage area under the stairs. Mr. DePriest will check to see if they are still there. The Commission talked about undertaking a survey of historic resources. Mr. DePriest presented the Commission with a copy of the 2000 Historic Survey. The Chair asked if the Commission members were familiar with the library archives and suggested that a tour be given. Ms. Farrington discussed the need to include an educational component to the action plan.

Mr. DePriest talked about the Garden Cemetery and the need to preserve it. Mr. Ostler gave a brief history of the cemetery. Mr. DePriest will send a copy of the master plan to the Commissioners.

A lot of the records are in poor shape. Funds need to be found for the preservation of the records. There is a need for a permanent space for Chelsea history. Some of the memorials are missing pieces.

There is a need for a mission statement and action plan. The Commission talked about its mission. "Preservation" has different meanings: some feel that it is very restricted, others took a broader look at the definition.

A timeline of important dates and events in Chelsea is needed.

The members discussed the following mission statement:

The Chelsea Historical Commission promotes public awareness of the historical importance of Chelsea by:

- Maintaining an accurate record of Chelsea's historical assets;
- Educating business and home owners about the historical importance of their property;
- Engaging with city leaders to ensure that preservation concerns are considered in community planning and development decisions; and
- Providing opportunities for the community to learn - through visual, narrative and other projects - about the important historical events that have shaped the community over time.

Mr. DePriest will reserve the Library for the next meeting and the agenda will include a tour of the archives.

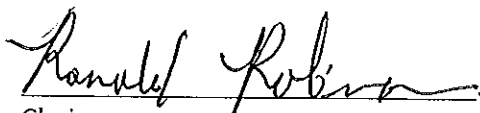
VI. Discussion of Rules of Procedure/Bylaws of the Commission

On a motion by Ilana Ascher and seconded by Frances Mascolo, it was voted unanimously (6-0-0) to adopt the rules of procedure as presented.

VII. Adjournment

On a motion by Christine Swistro and seconded by Frances Mascolo, it was voted unanimously (6-0-0) to adjourn. Adjournment was at 7:46 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:


Chair

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