



City of Chelsea
Chelsea Historical Commission

City Hall, Room 101, 500 Broadway
Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150

Ronald Robinson, Chairman
Ilana Ascher
Lee Farrington
Frances Mascolo
George Ostler
Alison Sheppard
Christine Swistro

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MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, November 7, 2017

I. Call to Order

The Chelsea Historic Commission was called to order by the Chair, Ronald Robinson, at 6:35 on Tuesday, November, 7 2017, in room 101 of City Hall, 500 Broadway, with the following members in attendance: Lee Farrington, George Ostler, Frances "Fran" Mascolo, Ronald "Ron" Robinson, Christine "Chris" Swistro.

Also present: Elijah Romulus, Planner/Land Use Administrator, Karl Allen, Planner/Economic Development

II. Approval of Minutes of October 3, 2017

On a motion made by Ron Robinson and seconded by Lee Farrington it was voted unanimously (5-0-0) to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2017 meeting.

III. Discussion of Creating Subcommittees

On a motion made by Ron Robinson and seconded by Fran Mascolo it was voted unanimously (5-0-0) to assign a subcommittee to deal with the Garden Cemetary Civil War Memorial and one to deal with Black History Month.

IV. Discussion of Monuments Asset Survey

Tufts did not take up the idea of the project so the commission must start from square one. Commission reflected on their direction; What do we want? How can the Commission do work on collecting data for the cultural assets survey that Karl is taking on? What would be a useful contribution to the Garden Cemetery from the commission? Commission dediced on Interpretive signage to be put around the cemetery and researching notable people that have been buried there.

Forest Hills cemetery's programing based on who is buried there, it could be used as a template.

Volumes I & II of inventories of markers from the cemetery are missing and III-IX are in the Planning Department. I & II may still be in the Library contact Nadine or could recreate them. A huge project. Could contact Chelsea High School for recruits. Could be a subcommittee with volunteers.

Bonnie just wants a list of historic sites. How much is created and how much is drawn out. She is out of the country for the moment but has been working on an artist map of Chelsea for several years.

The Commission would like to tour the Garden Cemetery.

Soldiers Lot & retaining wall is the focus of the current Garden Cemetary project.

Ron motion to table to next meeting with Chris & Lee beginning on the research initiative and Alison to establish some form of cataloging. With a focus on phase one of the project. Seconded by Chris

V. Discussion of Expanding African American Freedom Trail into Chelsea

7:30

Been working on project for Black History month. With an exhibit on abolitionists in the gallery in city hall. The first week will have a tour of sites around Chelsea. William J Williams was an alderman and first African American commissioned officer in the volunteer army for the Spanish American war. Lewis Latimer's father was one of the first emancipated slaves. Helped run the underground railroad. National Parks Service let them borrow manuscripts in regards to Latimer. Revere and Winthrop used to be part of Chelsea and they have records that are essential as well.

Lewis Latimer and William J. Williams can be the two historical markers.

Motion to table Ron and Fran will work on a subcommittee.

VI. Communications

Comment on removal of cobble stone from Second Street. They are not replacing cobble stones down by Winnisimmet.

Commission formal object to paving over the second street and restore Winnisimmet street cobble stones.

Formally object.

Motion by Ron Seconded by Lee

VII. Planning Department Updates

VIII. Adjournment

On a motion by Ronald Robinson and seconded by Chris, it was voted unanimously (5-0-0) to adjourn. Adjournment was at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:



Chair

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