

City of Chelsea  
**Historical Commission**  
City Hall, 500 Broadway, Room 101,  
Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150  
Tel: (617) 466-4188 | Fax: (617) 466-4195  
Elijah Romulus: Staff

Ron Robinson, Chairman  
Lee Farrington  
Fran Mascolo  
George Ostler  
Bobby Pereira  
Alison Sheppard  
Chris Swistro

**CHELSEA HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, January 2, 2018**

2018 JAN - 2  
Approved

**I. Call to Order**

The Chelsea Historic Commission was called to order by the Chair, Ronald Robinson, at 6:40 on Tuesday, January 2, 2018, in room 101 of City Hall, 500 Broadway, with the following members in attendance: Lee Farrington, George Ostler, Frances "Fran" Mascolo, Ronald "Ron" Robinson.

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

**II. Approval of Minutes of September 6, 2017**

On a motion made by Ron Robinson and seconded by Fran Mascolo it was voted unanimously (4-0-0) to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2017 meeting.

**III. Garden Cemetery Updates**

Karl Allen filled in the commission in on the Planning Department's plans to rehab the cemetery. Brass plaques, commemorating soldiers who died in battle, have been stolen over the years. In light of that he is looking at the possibility of a granite monument to be installed in their place. List all the names of the soldiers that did not make it home. In addition, Karl has reached out to the public schools to do a competition for reciting the Gettysburg Address on Memorial Day. Will rededicate the Soldier Lot 150 years after its original dedication. The commission found it a great idea. The project will include cleaning the monuments in the cemetery but will not replace.

Ron mentioned the cemetery as is has been attracting passersby to take pictures of the scenery. For this Memorial Day (2018) the priority is the soldier's lot and the retaining wall. Will put it out to bid in January and see if it works. Third part of the project is a 5-6 year master plan to rebuild the cemetery. Plan to redo the path. Reopen the side entrance to be able to walk through the cemetery and get an ADA compliant path. Would be open during daylight hours to the public. George mentioned the fact that it used to be used as a dumping ground. Karl mentioned security measures. Additionally, the rehabilitation project will report periodically to the Historical Commission. This will be the mechanism for public engagement and participation. the project as well as a request for CPA preservation money. The commission has concerns about the current archival process at the library. The commission would like a tour of the cemetery. In recent times, people had desecrated the graves and the cemetery. Going forward, prevention of said action will be sought once rehabbed. Commission encouraged to provide recommendations and ideas to the rehab project.

The Commission is also interested in a history of Garden cemeteries in America in relation to Chelsea. The fact that it survived the fire and has stood the test of time. Fran may have some books on Mt. Auburn and the Garden Cemetery. Karl mentioned installing interpretive signage on the sidewalk. George mentioned the cemetery was founded in 1841. It could be the third oldest garden cemetery in the state. In regards to the 2018 Memorial Day celebration for the 150 civil war anniversary the commission would like to find someone to play Taps, preferably by a middle/high school student and/or a veteran.

**IV. Discussion of Creating Subcommittees**

On a motion made by Ron Robinson and seconded by Fran Mascolo it was voted unanimously (4-0-0) to table the agenda item until November 7, 2017.

**V. Discussion of Monuments Asset Survey**

On a motion made by Ron Robinson and seconded by Lee Farrington it was voted unanimously (4-0-0) to table the agenda item until November 7, 2017.

**VI. Communications**

The Commission discussed the need to start publicizing the meetings further. Outlets to publicize included but was not limited to the Chelsea record, Discover Chelsea on Facebook, and Chelsea Happenings.

The commission also discussed Massachusetts State Historical Records Advisory Board, MA SHRAB, and the institution's Roving Archivist Program put forward by Fran. The commission in addition to exploring the archival program wants to subscribe to historical and archival resources and institutions around the state for news and grant opportunities.

On a Motion made by Ron Robinson and seconded by Fran Mascolo it was voted unanimously (4-0-0) to explore expanding notifications of public meetings.

**VII. Site Plans**

No site plans were up for review.

**VIII. Planning Department Updates**

The commission wants to look into whether there is a Boston University preservation program for academic collaborations. Elijah relayed that Tufts University did not accept the scope for a Garden Cemetery project but is interested in a future collaboration. There was an old rendition of the public schools in Chelsea that was discovered in the Planning Departments room prior to reconstruction. It will donated to the library for preservation.


Alison Shepard has been appointed to the Historical Commission and sworn in as of October 3, 2017.

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SECRET

**IX. Adjournment**

On a motion by Ronald Robinson and seconded by Lee Farrington, it was voted unanimously (4-0-0) to adjourn. Adjournment was at 7:34 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
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Chair

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