



CITY OF CHELSEA, MA
Historical Commission

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Allison Cuneo
Chair
Alison Sheppard
Vice Chair
Ron Robinson
Member
Fran Mascolo
Member
Bobby Pereira
Member
Allen Meringolo
Member
George Ostler
Member

CHELSEA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2019

I. Call to Order

A meeting of the Chelsea Historical Commission was called to order by Chair, Allison Cuneo, at 6:00pm on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 in room 102 of Chelsea City Hall, 500 Broadway, Chelsea, MA 02150 with the following members in attendance: Allison Cuneo, Fran Mascolo, Allen Meringolo, Alison Sheppard and Ron Robinson. Bobby Pereira was not present.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2019

On a motion by Allison Cuneo and seconded by Allen Meringolo, it was voted unanimously (5-0-0) to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2019 meeting.

III. Chelsea Museum and Chelsea History Book Status

Arnie Jarmak moved to Chelsea in 1977 and worked for the Chelsea Record as a photographer. At the time, the Chelsea Record was printed 5 days a week. Over this time period, Arnie has amassed a collection of 20,000 photos. Many of his photographs catalog buildings and plaques that are no longer in existence. Arnie showed a plaque that commemorated Abraham Lincoln's speech given in 1925. That plaque is now missing. He also showed a plaque that commemorated George Washington having been in Chelsea. Other historic pictures included the Police Station, Harry Seigal (acclaimed photographer) and Allen's Cut Rate store. Arnie is in the process of creating a book which documents the history of Chelsea through his vast photo collection. He is also working on an exhibit at the Walnut Street Synagogue. Their hope is to expand their exhibits more broadly to create a "Chelsea Museum". Arnie mentioned that when someone queries "things to do in Chelsea" on the internet that the reply always points towards Boston. Arnie echoed the need for a museum in the City. He suggested making postcards from his photographs and selling them to raise funds to restore plaques. There was also a call for a "Chelsea Historical Society".

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IV. Community Preservation Committee Update

Allen Meringolo emailed the members of the Historical Commission prior to the meeting an extensive update on the CPC. He also shared that there has been very strong interest in historic preservation projects to the CPC. His suggestion was to invite applicants with historic preservation proposals to present at a Historic Commission meeting. Endorsement by the Historic Commission strengthens an application to the CPC.

There was also discussion regarding the need for a historic inventory and a historic preservation plan. The Historic Commission could also make suggestions for historic preservation projects they would like to see submitted to the CPC.

Allen encouraged Historic Commission members to consider attending a CPC meeting.

V. 52 Washington Avenue Renovation

The majority of the discussion was about the proposed signage, "New Boston", for the building. Strong concern about this being a historic district and prominent entry to the Broadway corridor. The sign doesn't fit with the architectural character of the building and contrasts with the historical setting of the immediate surroundings. A letter will be drafted on behalf of the Historic Commission to be submitted to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

VI. 176 Washington Avenue Façade Recommendation

The Historic Commission encourages the developer to incorporate architectural elements more fitting with the surrounding setting. In its current plans, the design starkly contrasts with the immediate surrounding area. The suggestion is to incorporate historical and modern aesthetic elements similar to the 73 Winnisimmet development.

VII. Individual Project Proposals: Timelines and Tasks

This item was tabled until the next meeting on June 4, 2019.

VIII. Planning Department Updates

IX. Adjournment

On a motion by Allison Cuneo and seconded by Ron Robinson, it was voted unanimously (5-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm.



Minutes Approved

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OFFICE
SECRETARY