

Heritage Commission

August 18, 2020

Final Minutes

Members Present: John Merkle, Chairman, Maura Fay, Treasurer, Greg Bisson, Parks and Rec, Jay Myers, Vice Chair, Julie Gilman, Select Board Rep, John Grueter, Planning Board Rep

Call Meeting To Order: John Merkle, Chairman, called meeting to order via ZOOM at 1 pm.

Business: The approval of the June and July minutes. After members reviewed and with a few corrections, Julie made a motion to approve the June minutes as amended. Maura seconded. All were in favor and June minutes approved. They reviewed the July minutes and after some corrections, Maura made a motion to approve as amended. Julie seconded. All were in favor and July minutes approved.

Next on the agenda is discussion of the Black Heritage Packet Park Update. Maura said they met on the 30th and had a good conversation with a number of folks representing groups in town. Everybody is excited about the idea. They will be meeting again on Thursday morning to continue talking about the ins and outs. She thinks that in the interim, Renay will be having a conversation with the Swasey Park Trustees. She hopes to get a report back from her on what their thoughts are on a location. Jay asked if there was any discussion on the role of the HC in this process. Maura said for the most part it sounded like there were two major pieces of work. One is the site design and layout and the other is sort of the content. Julie asked if there was any discussion about the location. Maura said there was some discussion about the location. Two sections of Swasey were under discussion. Renay will be talking to the trustees about this. Next is the discussion of the Heritage Commission helping out the HDC with some technical help that might involve some funding. John asked Julie if this was still on the table and Julie said no, it was not. HDC does not have the authority to hire a third party engineer. The last meeting of the HDC the original motion approval of the project of the building was approved for its uses and the exterior design. There was a condition that the marquee be retained. This is going to be challenged at the next Zoning Board Meeting. Her question is does the HC want representation there. She thinks this would be a motion. Julie moved to have HC representation at the Zoning Board Appeals Meeting on the topic of the IOKA appeal. Maura seconded. John asked if there was any discussion. Julie said they should discuss how many or who they want to represent the HC and they need to look at the HDC opinion and there is quite a bit of testimony both from the owner and folks that are interested in preserving the marquee. Julie said they have not been officially asked to act on this. The HDC is meeting on Thursday and this might come up whether or not they want to go through that exercise with the HC paying for somebody. Right now the only thing the commission has to decide on is whether someone is going to represent the HC at the Zoning Board Meeting. John asked if they are to take a position on this. Julie said yes, that would be best. Julie said she can withdraw her motion and

have a discussion first. Julie withdrew her motion so they could discuss a little further about whether they wanted to approach it. Maura withdrew her second. There is now no motion on the table. John said the position of the HC, they don't have one right now. Julie said not yet. Julie said how they probably should proceed is let the HDC have its discussion on Thursday and make a formal request to the HC on what the Demolition Committee can do. They are only advisory and can only give an opinion. Maura asked if the commission would have enough time between now and the next ZBA Meeting. Julie said the HDC is meeting this Thursday and the ZBA Meeting is in September. John asked Julie where this is on the agenda for Thursday. Julie thinks it is under other business. John has Thursday open and will try and be there. Maura can only stay for half the meeting because she has to head out for work. She said 12:30 to 1:30 is better for her. John asked the other members if they were ok with changing the time. Everyone agreed to the new time.

John said next was the discussion of the Park/Cass Streets Heritage District. Jay said he started to draft a powerpoint presentation and he could share it with the members by email. He said there are roughly seven slides. It is attempting to answer the question of what it is, why it is important, what does it mean to be involved in it. It gives them a platform to describe it and add more detail and to offer up some discussion.

The last item is the flag pole replacement at the Winter Street Cemetery. Julie asked the members if she sent them the picture of what is currently there. They said no. She said they were approached by someone who would like to replace the flag pole because it is in such bad shape. She does not know of any proposal to replace it. Greg Bisson, Parks and Rec, said there has been no proposal because they wanted to come to the HC first to get guidance. He said it is not original and it is a metal pole. Greg said it is a limited budget so if anyone was thinking of red oak, it is definitely out of the budget range. John Grueter asked what they could afford. Greg said there is \$2,200 in the budget. John asked if that included the eagle. Greg said it did not but this person would purchase the eagle themselves. John Grueter asked if the money would get them a fiberglass pole and Greg said it would. If they spent a little more money, they could get one that would blend in. He is planning on speaking with the local flagpole companies and see if they can get a deal as well. He would like to keep it local because he does not like to always go on line. Jay asked what the height of the pole would be. Greg said the one that is currently there is 40 feet tall. Greg said that he will come back with more information for the board to review and hopefully they can get it done before Veterans Day.

With no other business, Julie made a motion to adjourn. Jay seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 1:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Herrick
Recording Secretary

