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# February 12, 2021 - Meeting Minutes

ZOOM Conference Call

Essex, MA 01929

**Roll Call:**

Essex Historical Commission Attendees:

Nat Crosby Keith Symmes

Drew Godfrey Justin Kane

Jay Tetzloff

**Call to Order**

Observing that a quorum was present, Keith moved that we call the meeting to order, Jay seconded the motion, which passed 5-0 at 8:15am.

**Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

Motion to accept the January 8, 2021 minutes passed 5-0.

**Old Business:**

**Spring Street Cemetery Signage Update:**

Drew and Justin reviewing responses from potential sign vendors, one from New York and another from O’Rourke Brothers (a preferred local option. To quote options within EHCs $3,170 budget, they need desired size and verbiage to be included. Two basic options are a medium-sized cast aluminum plaque with a bronze finish, or a much smaller plaque cast in solid bronze. Nat stated that real bronze is preferred, as the aluminum versions do not weather as well and do not develop the same patina as real bronze. Preferred placement would be on the fence on the opposite side as existing signage so it doesn’t get lost visually. Alternative is to place a decorative boulder on the ground, but this is not preferred due to the maintenance (mowing/trimming) that would be required. Nat agreed to send the suggested verbiage to Drew and Justin so they can obtain a quote.

**Not sure – my notes are unclear**

Building Preservation: Historic New England 🡪 Easement

Open Space – Trustees

Membership 🡪 Choate

**CPC Funding Request**

Our request for $20,000 for property surveys was voted down at the January CPC meeting. CPC cited “lack of a plan” for what would be accomplished by additional surveys, as the Town already has surveys from 1976, 1985 and 2014 and little if any action was taken.

EHC plans to revise its request and present it again prior to May Town Meeting so it can be included in the general CPC warrant.

Nat reminded the EHC that the CPC is the only funding source for the EHC and that without it we remain in a reactive/defensive posture when demolition permits are received. Funding for additional surveys will provide the basis for community outreach and collaboration that is critical to helping property owners better understand the provenance of their properties prior to applying for demolition permits.

Veteran’s Memorial Park Patio (planned Spring 2021 by the Town)

EHC discussed asking for inclusion of a big plaque or sign with photos of Town Hall, the Ballpark, and the Veteran’s Memorial to be included in the desing,

EHC allotted funds from the Historical Reserve to partially fund construction of a display building to house the hand pumper fire truck as part of Veteran’s Memorial Park. Nat agreed to contact Brendhan and the Building Committee to better understand the site plan and potentially propose an alternative placement of the building. Nat cited the example of the display house in Wenham as a missed opportunity to make the pumper more visible and better integrate it into its surroundings. We do not want to make the same mistake in Essex.

**New Business:**

**Demolition permits**

No active demolition permits have been received since the last meeting.

**Future Meeting Times**

Nat moved that EHC meetings be moved up 30 min, to 8:00am beginning in March 2021. Jay seconded, motion passed 4-0.

**Motion to adjourn**, seconded and passed unanimously at 9:00 am ET.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay E. Tetzloff, Secretary