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# March 12, 2021 - Meeting Minutes

ZOOM Conference Call

Essex, MA 01929

**Roll Call:**

Essex Historical Commission Attendees:

Nat Crosby Keith Symmes

Drew Godfrey Justin Kane

Easton Ehlers 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 6-0 at 8:35am.

**Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

Motion to accept the February 12, 2021 minutes passed 6-0.

**Old Business:**

**Spring Street Cemetery Signage Update:**

Nat to provide verbiage to Drew and Justin, after which exact quotes will be obtained. Quick turnaround expected 2-3 weeks.

**Form for demo permits (Easton)** – Easton call Nat for guidance. Goal is to have an official form that explains and provides context for the Demolition Delay bylaw.

**New Business:**

**Folsom Pavilion**

The Finance committee informed the EDC that the Folsom Pavilion at Centennial Grove has been deemed structurally unsound by the building inspector and is to be closed and boarded up.

Previous estimate of $15,000 to fix the floor in 2017, funding was not granted at that time. BOS at that time had requested proposals for more productive use of Centennial Grove. RFP language included a requirement that the respondent guarantee certain annual revenues; nobody responded because nobody would accept the risk associated with the revenue guarantee. BOS will meet 3/22/21 to discuss further. Folsom Pavilion is the last remaining original structure that comprises Centennial Grove, was a prominent summer retreat space from 1880-1900, and had its own train stop. Town is at risk of demolition by neglect.

Idea: request CPC Open Space funding to repair the floor and make the building structurally sound. Likely issue is the future proposed use; currently Camp Dory prevents public use of the Pavilion when Camp Dory is in session. A broader historic survey of Centennial Grove and Folsom Pavilion is recommended to understand potential public uses / programming.

Jay to amend the CPC funding request to prioritize a survey of Centennial Grove and the Pavilion, and also Burnham’s corner. Would Camp Dory be compromised if Folsom Pavilion is closed off?

Highlight the importance of the surveys, starting with Centennial Grove.

Programming? Non-resident parking fees?

**Fire pump shelter and Plan**

Nat spoke with Lisa O’Donnell, chair of Essex Building Committee, Nat shared site plan from demo of the old fire station. So far, the Building Committee has not met to specifically discuss the site plan. Important Town site – when Town Hall was built, designer from Crane Estate/Castle Hill was used to create the current hill, ballfield, and park space, which at the time included the land that was taken by the Town to build the current fire station in the 1950s-1960s. Warrants additional study and thought. For example, the current proposed site is in a flood zone that flooded as recently as 2019.

Nat to follow up with Lisa on Building committee. Recommend that current demo contractor prepare the site and lay a pad, but not build the structure. Public Safety building is under budget, so should not require CPC funding. $60k was estimate for structure itself, not site prep. The $60k was decided by CPC to be 50% Open Space, 50% Historic Preservation.

There are creative ideas to reduce costs and add visual interest – e.g. have architectural design school students propose designs, and have Essex Tech students build the structure. Other ideas? Build a new building that mimics old building practices. Example Essex Shipbuilding Museum shed to restore the timber frame from the barn at 11 John Wise.

Nat to attend BOS 3/22 to gather information, then attend Building Committee mtg (not scheduled).

**Demolition permits**

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

Foreseeable demo permit(s) are expected for the Allen properties across from Cape Ann Sup.

**Motion to adjourn**, seconded and passed unanimously at 9:42 am ET.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay E. Tetzloff, Secretary