

City of Chelsea Historical Commission

City Hall, 500 Broadway, Room 101 Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150 Tel: (617) 466-4180 | Fax: (617) 466-4195 Ron Robinson, Chair Allison Cuneo Fran Mascolo Allen Meringolo George Ostler Bobby Pereira Alison Sheppard

CHELSEA HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2018

I. Call to Order

The Chelsea Historical Commission was called to order by the chair, Ron Robinson, at 6:05pm on Tuesday, December 4, 2018 in room 102 of Chelsea City Hall, 500 Broadway, Chelsea, MA 02150 with the following members in attendance: Allison Cuneo, Bobby Pereira, Alison Shephard and Ron Robinson. Fran Mascolo and Allen Meringolo were not present.

Also present: Lad Dell, Planner/ Land Use Administrator, Planning & Development Karl Allen, Economic Development Planner, Planning & Development

II. Historical Commission Objectives

Each of the members were asked to introduce themselves as a new member has come on board.

Ron Robinson, chair, said that he has served as the representative to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). As he is stepping down from the role of chair, he will defer to the board in terms of who will be the representative to the CPC. His hopes are to see the Commission come to form in the coming year.

Alison Shepard has been on the Commission for one year. She has a background in architecture and has been involved in the community for a long time. Wanting to become more active, she spoke with the City Manager and was appointed to the Commission.

Allison Cuneo has just joined the Commission. She has a background in archaeology, with a particular focus on historic preservation policy in local contexts. She has spent extensive time in the Middle East, particularly Iraq, working on historic and cultural preservation. She looks to apply her professional expertise to assist the City.



City of Chelsea Historical Commission

City Hall, 500 Broadway, Room 101 Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150 Tel: (617) 466-4180 | Fax: (617) 466-4195 Ron Robinson, Chair Allison Cuneo Fran Mascolo Allen Meringolo George Ostler Bobby Pereira Alison Sheppard

Bobby Pereira joined the Commission in January 2018. He has been an active member of the community having served on the Chelsea School Committee for 2 years. He is interested in preserving the historical assets of the City.

III. Community Preservation Committee Update

Members of the Commission wanted to better understand the process with regard to administration of funds and how the funds would be allocated.

The CPC will adopt an application in December. They would then receive applications for funding requests. The CPC would review the applications and make recommendations to the City Council for approval and level of funding. The Council can approve, approve with lower funding or deny the application. The Council will not able to increase funding levels for applications. Funds are anticipated to be available as of July 1, 2019.

The CPC Master Policy document has designated funds in the following proportion: 50% to Affordable Housing, 25% to Historic Preservation and 25% to Open Space and Recreation.

DPW Asst. Director, Fidel Maltez, has put in a request that Historic Preservation money be allocated for the City Hall cupola and restoration of the Civil War Monument.

IV. Planning for 2019

The question was asked to what degree should the Commission be reactive vs. proactive? Bobby Pereira believed that it should be 80% reactive and 20% proactive, mainly responding to requests for determination of historical significance through Section 106 findings and the Demolition Delay Ordinance.

Ron Robinson posed the question whether the Commission was a policy making board or one that makes recommendations? What authority does the Commission have? John DePriest, Director of Planning and Development, was unable to attend the meeting so this was tabled and will be addressed in the next meeting.

Alison Shepard called for a centralized inventory of all historically significant buildings.



City of Chelsea Historical Commission

City Hall, 500 Broadway, Room 101 Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150 Tel: (617) 466-4180 | Fax: (617) 466-4195 Ron Robinson, Chair Allison Cuneo Fran Mascolo Allen Meringolo George Ostler Bobby Pereira Alison Sheppard

Allison Cuneo said that we need to know which historically significant buildings we currently have and identify those that need to be preserved. Policies are needed to protect and safeguard.

Further discussion called for the need to clarify the Demolition Delay Ordinance. Mike McAteer, Director of the Inspectional Services Department, will be invited to the next meeting.

V. Communications (Old Business/New Business)

VI. Planning Department Updates

- Garden Cemetery: 5 year plan with \$2 million allocation from the City Council. Project will replace all pathways, replant trees, historic signs and markers at the entrance. The Civil War cannon will be restored and granite grave markers will created to replace the copper grave markers that have been looted. New gates, fences and cameras will also be installed.
- <u>Chelsea 400</u>: Will be celebrated in 2024. Will need to decide on how to frame the celebration. This will be a collaborative effort with the Chelsea Cultural Council. A monument to commemorate this milestone could be considered.

VII. Adjournment

On a motion by Bobby Pereira and seconded by Ron Robinson, it was voted unanimously to adjourn. Adjournment was at 7:22pm.

Minutes approved:

Ronald Robinson