

THE IPSWICH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD, February 13, 2023, 7:00PM Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Officers: Mariana Ovnic (MO), Laura Gresh (LGresh), Lindsay Randall (LR), Rachel Meyer (RM)

Commissioners: Gordon Harris (GH), Stephen Miles (SM), Christina Sarantaopoulos (CS)

Planning Department: Andrea Bates (AB)

Guest: Michael Updike, David Updike, Trevor Meek, Isaac Ross

Commissioners Absent: Laura Grimes (LGrimes)

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.

- I. Citizen Queries
 - a. None

- II. Jenny Slew Park
 - a. Isaac Ross reported that Heidi Leonard from the Ipswich Human rights Commission will be going before the Select Board on Feb 21, 2023 to present the petition to rename the parcel in honor of Jenny Slew.

- III. John Updike Plaque
 - a. RM reported on the proposed wording for the plaque that was crafted with in-out from John Updike's children and the Updike Society. Commissioners and guests were then invited to give input to the wording. Discussion ensued. The language of the plaque was approved.
 - b. RM shared a proof of the visual size of the plaque with the addition of the self portrait of John Updike.
 - c. Price of the plaque has changed to \$450 plus shipping. \$500 has already been allocated. **Motion 2023.2.1** to expand the budget to \$600 to cover taxes and shipping. RM moved to expand the budget. GH seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - d. Tentative unveiling date: Friday April 28 around 5 pm. MO will work with RM to plan.

- IV. 2022 Planning Dept. intern work
 - a. GH reported on the work completed by Planning Dept. intern for the benefit of the Historical Commission. The work focused on documenting Old South Cemetery.

- V. 2023 Historical Commission summer intern discussion
 - a. Focus of possible future summer intern projects. MO brought up a summer program focused on education of younger generations. RM shared her idea of an intern project related to the Immigrant Cemetery and take the time to take a photo and put it on Find-A-Grave due to the names and information being listed in Greek and Polish. Discussion ensued. **Motion 2023.2.2** To post for an intern position to work on a project related to the Immigrant Cemetery. RM moved and GH seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - b. MO will do a write up for the local news about past and future projects.

- VI. Treasurer's update

- a. RM reported on the Historical Commission's budget.
 - Flags and Plaques: \$2100
578.78 allotted for the Mary Conley award. Updike plaque has \$600 allocated for it. Currently \$921.22 left.
 - Miscellaneous: \$200
Currently \$200 left.
 - Intern salary \$975
Currently \$975 left.
 - Harold Bowen Fund \$40,921.42 as of Sept 30, 2021.

- VII. Workshop on window restoration by Alison Hardy
 - a. LGresh reported that she had talked with Alison Hardy and they have agreed on her doing a workshop on Saturday March 18 from 10 am – 12 pm. The event will be held at Ipswich Public Library. Discussion related to promotion of the event was discussed.
 - b. **Motion 2023.2.3** to approve \$100 from Miscellaneous funds to cover light refreshments and other incidentals LGresh moved, and CS seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- VIII. Update on Section 3A
 - a. LR shared updates from the 3A task force. Discussion ensued.
 - b. First Public Forum will be held tentatively on Wednesday March 22 around 6:30 pm. *Information subject to change.* There will be other opportunities for community engagement.

- IX. Adopt minutes
 - a. Stephen suggested an amendment to the minutes. **Motion 2023.2.4** MO moved to adopt minutes as amended. GH seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- X. New business
 - a. GH brought up the standards for streetscapes document. Discussion ensued regarding moving this project forward. Next steps: GH will reshare the document with Commission members to review. Members will take a global look at the document and keep in mind the 3A mandate and what neighborhoods might be absent and will email GH directly with edits/comments.
 - b. AB will craft a memo regarding the importance of the Historical Commission's involvement for the High Street project to all municipal partners involved. Historical Commission believes that SM would be the best Commissioner to be the Historical Commission's point person for the project.

- XI. Adjournment
 - a. **Motion 2023.2.5** RM moved and MO seconded to adjourn the February Historical Commission meeting at 9:00 pm. Motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Next meeting will be on March 13, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsay Randall
Clerk/Secretary

Minutes approved by the Historical Commission on March 13, 2023