

## **THE IPSWICH HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD, March 13, 2023**

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

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

**Planning Department:** Andrea Bates (AB)

**Guests:** Lisa Terrel, Sarah Vikery

**Commissioners Absent:** Laura Grimes (LGrimes),

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

- I. Citizen Queries
  - a. None.
  
- II. John Updike plaque
  - a. RM ordered the plaque and reported that the cost came in under the budget that had been approved.
  - b. Due to possibility for a larger crowd, the reception and public reading of the short story of A&P will be done at the Ipswich Public Library. Sarah Vicky will be MCs the event and reported about the Ipswich Poetry Group who will also be participating in the event.
  - c. MO will reach to the Choate Bridge Pub regarding the menu.
  - d. Order of the events: the dedication of the plaque starts at 6 pm at the Choate Bridge Pub and moves to the library around 6:30 pm for the reception. All the Updike children and some members of the Updike Society will be attending.
  - e. Plaque is due to shipped out March 23.
  
- III. Jenny Slew Park
  - a. CS reported that a group went before the Select Board regarding the naming of the park. The Select Board need to talk to DPW and a few other departments to ensure that there was no issue. They requested that a Public Hearing be held regarding the issue, TBD.
  - b. MO suggested an article in the newspaper to generate support for the naming of the park. CS will ask Isaac Ross if he is willing to submit something to Ipswich News (John Muldoon)
  
- IV. 2022 Annual Report
  - a. MO compiled a draft of the Historical Commission's annual report. Members were asked to comment on the document regarding omissions and inclusions. Discussion ensued.
  
- V. John Freeman Plaque
  - a. GH updated the IHC about the process with Essex Heritage regarding the plaque. Discussion ensued about wording.

- b. Lisa Terrel made comments about her research regarding her family, who had enslaved John Freeman and the larger historical narrative of the time. (Late 18<sup>th</sup> century New England)
  - c. MO brought up the idea of a celebration to announce the unveiling when it occurs. It was positively received.
  - d. **Motion 2023.3.1** GH moved that Ipswich Historical Commission requests that Select Board to grant the IHC and Essex Heritage to erect plaque (no charge) to honor formerly enslaved Ipswich residents Peter and Jane Freeman and their son John Freeman, a Revolutionary War Veteran. Location: Empty lot at the intersection of East and Spring Streets. RM seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- VI. 2023 Historical Commission summer intern discussion
- a. RM is willing to supervise the Immigrant Cemetery project. It was determined that this is more of a volunteer work.
  - b. Discussion ensued around other possible project the intern could work on. One project identified was expanding the Streetscape document. LGresh agreed to oversee the intern's work on such a project and will draft the job description.
  - c. SM brought up the idea of historic streetscapes and how expanding this work could be a way that IHC could positively contribute to the 3A work and other planning work.
- VII. Streetscapes document
- a. GH gave an overview of the document and its history.
  - b. **Motion 2023.3.2** MO moved that the document should be shared with the DPW, 3A Taskforce, design review board, and other committees and boards that have interest in streetscapes. LGresh seconded. Passed Unanimously.
  - c. Discussion regarding the IHC working more formally with departments in town, such as the DPW, to insert our interests more consistently, particularly with project reviews and input. GH brought up the issue of the dilapidated fence on Spring Street as an example of how the IHC might work collaboratively with town departments.
- VIII. Window Woman event budget
- a. LGresh went over the agenda for the event.
  - b. **Motion 2023.3.3** LGresh moved to use \$100 from miscellaneous funds. CS seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- IX. Update on Section 3A
- a. LR gave an update on the 3A Task Force. First Public Forum will be on Wednesday March 22 at 6:30 pm in Town Hall room A. LR will also be giving a talk about the anthropology of architecture on Wednesday April 5 at 6:30 pm at the Ipswich Public Library. Another event, Coffee & Conversations will be held in either late March or early April.
- X. Adopt minutes
- a. **Motion 2023.3.4** MO moved to approve the Feb minutes. CS seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- XI. 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 \$488.78 allocated for it. Currently \$1032.44 left.
- Miscellaneous: \$200  
\$100 earmarked for Window Workshop refreshments  
Funds left: \$100
- Intern salary \$975  
Currently \$975 left.
- Harold Bowen Fund \$48,921.42 as of Sept 30, 2021.

XII. New business  
a. None.

XIII. Adjournment  
a. **Motion 2023.3.5** CS moved and SM seconded to adjourn the March Historical Commission meeting at 8:55 pm. Motion passed unanimously.  
b. Next meeting will be on April 10, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lindsay Randall  
Clerk/Secretary

Minutes approved by the Historical Commission on April 10, 2023