

Ipswich Historical Commission January 10, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attending:

Members: Bill Effner, Linda Grimes, Gordon Harris, Laura Gresh, Rachel Meyer, Joe Bourneuf, Lee Hathaway, Mariana Ovnich, Christine Sarantopoulos

Staff: Kristen Grubbs, Director Planning Department

EBSCO: Isaac Ross

Stewart Lytle also on Zoom

Joe called the meeting to order at 7:05

Citizen's queries:

None

Confirmation of officers:

Joe informed the commission that he was now a full voting member and Gordon is now an alternate member. Gordon made a motion to confirm officers, nominated December 10, 2021 meeting. All members voted yes.

INC Annual Report:

Gordon prepared and sent out the 2021 IHC Annual Report to IHC members.
Gordon reported the historicipswich.com website visitors has now exceeded 500,000.
Joe commended Gordon for all his work preparing this report.
Laura motioned to accept the annual report, Bill seconded, all voted in favor.

Millworkers' Strike Plaque at intersection of Saltonstall and Market Streets:

Rachel shared a photo of the plaque size of 20" x 14" supported by a pole of 6 feet.
Rachel suggested it be set at a height for someone ~~handicapped~~ in a wheelchair would be able to read.
Isaac checked to installation location is safe and the town confirmed there are no water lines at this location but it will need Dig Safe approval to check for gas lines.
It was suggested that this be on the Select Board agenda for approval since this is on town land. Once it is approved, Dig Safe can be commissioned to check and approve the site.
The cost of the sign will be \$1413.00, including tax, plus \$80.00 for shipping.
The IHC has approved up to \$2000.00 for this sign from the 2022 budget. Rachel said she would get an exact quote in writing.

Indigenous Peoples Day:

Rachel presented revised text to members at last meeting.
She note Mariana assisted to edit the final text. It reads:

Whereas the land that today includes the Town of Ipswich was known for generations as Agawam by the Indigenous Peoples who lived here;
Whereas Ipswich contains within its boundaries the renowned Bull Brook site that contains evidence of this area's occupation by Indigenous Peoples over 10,000 years ago;
Whereas the Ipswich Historical Commission values and honors the contributions Indigenous Peoples have made to our community, Commonwealth, and country, and recognizes their suffering;

Whereas Ipswich today is a town that is inclusive and welcoming, with an Historical Commission that strives to accurately represent its history;
Whereas observance of an Indigenous Peoples' Day on the second Monday of October is increasingly recognized both locally and nationally;
We, the Ipswich Historical Commission therefore recommend that the second Monday of October for all years henceforth be observed as Indigenous Peoples' Day in the Town of Ipswich.

Gordon suggested waiting until after the May town meeting to present this to the Select Board.

Preservation Agreements:

A late first period house at 115 High Street built in 1725 is for sale with the owner's son selling the house and barn. The seller inquired about extending the APD to include his house. This would require approval by Town Meeting. Gordon suggested and discussed creating a Preservation for certain historic elements in the house, including beams, paneling and period windows. Joe said he would follow up with the owner regarding a preservation agreement.

A perspective buyer contacted Gordon and Kristen asking for information about restrictions that apply to the property. Kristen was contacted by a realtor and has yet to respond.

Minutes of December 13, 2021:

The minutes referring to ORA motion certifying the historically significant areas on the property were discussed. At the December meeting, there was discussion about the paddocks, but they were not included ~~or discussed~~ as part of ORA's plan at previous meetings and were not included in the IHC motion at the last meeting.

A few small typo/spelling edits were requested.

Linda made a motion to accept the minutes. Lee seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

Ethan can now send a letter to the ORA board stating the minutes of IHC meeting December 13, 2121 confirm "certification of the historically significant areas -- the estate, landscape and buildings as identified in the ORA plan". The Historical Commission's responsibility as part of the Great Estates by-law was confirmed by this certification.

New Business:

Gordon informed members that Bob Leonard, owner of Old Colony Signs is deceased and the company is no longer in business. Mr. Leonard created most of the historic house plaques in Ipswich, in cooperation with the Historical Commission. Gordon was incidentally contacted by Tim Kearns, owner of Hand Painted Wooden Signs, about arranging with the Historical Commission about producing future plaques for owners. Joe Bourneuf, Lee Hathaway and Gordon will meet with Mr. Kearns on Wednesday. Linda suggested researching a local vendor.

Gordon mentioned the two shapes for historic house plaques in Ipswich. First period and other houses constructed before 1800 have the shape of a house in the pattern, while plaques for later houses do not.

The procedure for determining the wording is on the Historic Ipswich site. Laura thought the process of owner's obtaining a sign should remain the same.

Minutes of November 8, 2021 meeting:

Laura made a motion to approve. Joe seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Minutes prepared by Laura Gresh

Minutes approved by the Historical Commission on March 14, 2022