

Randolph Historical Commission

FINAL version

Minutes of Meeting August 18th, 2010

Present:

Meeting was reconvened at 7:00pm at Stetson Hall

Present: Chairman Henry Cooke, Susan Ryan, Alan Banks, and Mary West.

Absent: none

Excused: Lallie Falls, Lesly Freed and Joe Griffin

Minutes of July 18th, 2010 meeting: accepted

Correspondence:

- No correspondence

Reports:

- Design review board – no report
- Community Preservation Commission – legislation to stabilize and strengthen the Community Preservation Act (SB 90) was recommended by the House Ways and Means Committee, but the legislative session ended July 31st before it was brought to the floor.
- Stetson Hall Trustees received 6 very nice display cases donated by Dunkin Donuts (special thanks to Susan Ryan)
- 592 North Main Street & Free temporary Storage – all items removed from the barn as the demolition of the house is scheduled for August 17. Chairman was called to the property by the Building Inspector after the house was taken down because the barn was leaning towards the southwest. George Fabrizio determined the barn to be unstable and therefore unsafe, so it was also taken down. A letter explaining this decision is forthcoming from the Building Dept as the Demolition Permit was strictly for the house.
- Royal/Stetson House at 660 North Street –
 - National Register (NR) application is being prepared and more research was done at the Suffolk County Probate for homestead meets & bounds; next step is at the Suffolk Country Registry of Deeds which may have their documents on-line (hopefully). Rough draft first pass to be ready soon
 - Chairman heard from George Berdos who agreed to help expose the north wall (selective demolition) if we can collect 2-3 volunteers. Ken Richardson is willing to help (he is a preservation carpenter friend of Henry's)
 - Money for Structural Engineer – Chairman will ask Town Manager David Murphy and CPC Chairman Brian Howard if approximately \$2000 of the \$10,000 appropriated by the CPA for the new roof can be used instead to pay for the services of the Structural Engineer to assess the north wall deterioration.
 - Additional Sources of funding:
 - Copeland Foundation – not sure who is handling this now as Henry's previous contact is gone
 - Stetson kindred – no response to Henry's inquiry
 - Possible Re-uses and discussion of options:
 - DCR (Massachusetts Dept of Conservation and Recreation) meeting with Kevin Allen– need to ask for more details about curatorial tenancy and potential re-use plans; he was scheduled to attend our meeting but had to

cancel; he will reschedule a visit to 660 North Street followed by a meeting with the Historical Commission soon

- Randolph Public Schools partnership to include local history into the curriculum; interested has been expressed by Marybeth Nearen and Superintendent Santos so meetings will be scheduled to discuss further
- Dartmouth College History professor and RHS alumni – Susan contacting for his ideas and perhaps an internship
- North Benet Street School – Henry will contact (Mary previously left message on Claire Fruitman’s voicemail, she is the Associate Director, but no response)
- Chairman will contact Rob Osborn of Immaculate Construction to gauge his interest in this project
- Mowing Calendar – need to bring your own lawn mower and sign up with Susan (especially the front for improved appearance). Richard Brewer’s son mowed it recently (special thanks for this).
- Raising public awareness with a ‘Beneath the Elms’ RCTV program –Chairman will share info on the house’s history, residents and even the artificial leg mystery. It will probably air in September. Feedback is positive when folks in town understand that we are trying to save the house, so this will help spread the message.
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Old Business:

- Development of a preservation fund – no update.
- Office at Stetson Hall – will pick up shelving (donation) of excess furniture from National Park Service (Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site) in Brookline on Saturday; need to borrow a pick up truck
- Historical Commission website – no update.
- NR nomination for Stetson Hall –Kathleen Broomer should be finished and it is likely at MHC awaiting their review. Her last steps were finalizing the archeology and education details.
- Arts in the Park is Aug 22nd and Susan and whoever else is available will sit at a table and sell “Beneath the Elms” books. Information about the Royal Stetson House (660 North Street) project will be on display as well as sign up sheet for anyone willing to volunteer to help with the restoration work. Set up time is 8am and the event is from 11:30-4pm.
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New Business:

- Activities to raise awareness and promote support and volunteer helpers for 660 North Street:
 - Information table at Stetson Hall during the Blood Drive on Aug 30th
 - Sponsor a Haunted House walking tour

Next Meeting: TBA based on availability of Kevin Allen of DCR
Meeting Adjourned: 8:05pm