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Jim Hill  
ORLEANS TOWN CLERK



HISTORICAL COMMISSION

**Orleans Historical Commission  
Wednesday, August 9, 2023 at 4:15 pm**

This was a hybrid meeting of the Orleans Historical Commission convened in the Skaket Room at Town Hall, with remote participation also provided by Zoom technology. Real-time public access was provided by Orleans Channel 18 on the Town website and cable television.

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 pm by Historical Commission Chair Ron Petersen. Also attending, and thus constituting a quorum were Committee Vice Chair Joan Nix, Members Charles Ellis, Bill Wibel, Edmund Marcarelli, and Associate Members Francis Mustaro and David Herrick.

**Also, in attendance:** Historic Preservation Consultant Eric Dray (participated part-time).

**(00:00) Public Comment:**

Mr. Petersen discussed the meeting schedule of the Historical Commission. He noted that the increased number of committees in Town makes it hard to reserve a meeting space, and the Town Clerk suggests moving the start time to 4 or 4:15 pm. Moving forward, the Commission will be meeting at 4 PM.

The Historic District Study Committee will meet immediately following the Historical Commission meeting.

There was no additional public comment.

**(05:00) Report on the CPC funded Archeology Project. Vote on proceeding. (Ron and Ed)**

Mr. Petersen was excited to share that the Archeology Project was ready to go, and that he and Mr. Marcarelli met with Dan Soto, a local archaeologist. There is \$7,500 for the project, and Mr. Soto was able to provide a proposal based on that amount.

Mr. Petersen said that the Peck Property would be the best place to start the project. This is the site of the First Indian Meeting House, and has a robust history. Mr. Soto will work closely with MA Historical Commission, and the existing local Tribes, to ensure the project is undertaken in accordance with all regulations. Mr. Marcarelli noted that this property has been undisturbed Conservation Land for some time; Mr. Petersen noted that there is also a walking trail there now.

Mr. Mustaro asked if the project has the ability to develop into a larger project. Mr. Ellis said that this was meant to be a starting point, and asked how this survey would help get to a future grant to continue and expand the project. Mr. Marcarelli noted that Mr. Soto will suggest follow-ups for after the project, and that yes, this is hopefully the beginning of the project. He did note that working around Native American gravesites and other sensitive sites was highly restricted.

The work by Mr. Soto will be completed in December, and Mr. Ellis noted that this would be too late for a CPC application. To meet the CPC deadline, the Commission will need to discuss what it would like to see in that application, and whether that includes another survey or not. Mr. Marcarelli suggested submitted the application for Nauset Estuary to CPC, to work toward getting a grant for that property. CPC applications are due mid-November, and the Commission will work from now until then to figure out its next step in applying for a future grant.

Mr. Ellis asked if the \$7,500 enough, or would more money suffice. Mr. Petersen said that this should be adequate money to get started, based on feedback from Mr. Soto but that he could also look into what more services more money would get the Commission. There was further discussion. A public presentation will be a piece of the project, and Mr. Soto will work to schedule that in the fall.

**Ms. Nix moved to accept the proposal from DMZ for the Archaeological Recognizance Survey for the Peck Property Conservation Area as written; Mr. Marcarelli seconded. The Commission voted 5-0-0 with Mems. Marcarelli, Ellis, Petersen, and Wibel and Ms. Nix voting “aye”.**

**(26:00) Public Education Committee review- website and other projects (Joan and Ed)**

Mr. Petersen noted that he received an invoice for “web maintenance”. Mr. Marcarelli said that they have not developed enough content yet to do public outreach about the website. Additionally, the Town does not have the technology to replicate the property database that contains the Form B’s and historical information.

**(30:00) CPC Update and Potential Fall Projects (Charles)**

Mr. Ellis was not aware of any fall application that would come to this Commission at this point, but he will have more information after a meeting on August 10. Mr. Ellis asked to have a discussion at a future meeting to discuss potential application ideas, to work to get an application in to the CPC by October.

One project idea, is to continue Mr. Dray’s work on updating Form B’s. He suggested a presentation to the CPC about the work involved in make those updates and to explain further what a Form B is and its importance. Mr. Dray discussed the cost and number of Form B’s needing updating, which would be \$120,000 for 300+ For B’s. He cited similar work in Chatham that was done in phases, and how that might assist in completing this project in Orleans. The Commission and Mr. Dray will discuss a phased-approach, based on priorities of the Commission, at a future meeting.

Mr. Wibel asked about properties that are waterfront: boathouses, historic homes that sit on the water, etc. Mr. Dray noted that there can be an accessibility issue for the Surveyor when looking at homes that may only be viewable from the waterfront, but noted that these can be considered as well.

Mr. Ellis discussed other potential projects, including a fund for the Commission for consulting expertise should the need arise, web management costs, and increased signage throughout Town. Mr. Petersen noted that there is money for signage in the Public Education line grant which totals about \$20,000. Mr. Ellis asked to discuss this money at the September meeting to develop a plan for usage.

**(50:00) Review/approve minutes**

Mr. Petersen provided an amendment.

**A motion to approve the minutes of July 12, 2023 as amended was moved by Mr. Marcarelli and seconded by Ms. Nix. The Commission voted 5-0-0 with Mems. Marcarelli, Ellis, Petersen, and Mustaro and Ms. Nix voting “aye”.**

**(2:05:00) Items for future agendas**

There were no additional items for future agendas beyond the Historic District Study Committee.

**Adjourn:**

**Mr. Marcarelli moved to adjourn at 5:05 pm; Mr. Wibel seconded. The Commission voted 5-0-0 with Mems. Marcarelli, Ellis, Petersen, Wibel, and Ms. Nix voting “aye”.**

**Documents discussed and reviewed:**

1. Draft minutes – July 12, 2023