

**CITY HALL RESTORATION COMMISSION
SUMMARY OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY MARCH 29TH 2010**

Location: Third Floor Conference Room City Hall.

Present: J.J. Bell, Jan Bell, Steve Dexter, Mary McCarl, Steve Pardee, Maggie Rosa, Bill Sanborn, Sandy Ronan (Co-chair of the Community Preservation Committee)

Meeting opened at 10:05 a.m.

MPPF Round 16 Application

The CHRC is generating an application to seek funding for closing in walls and ceilings within City Hall with the priority being the Towers walls, the Kyrouz auditorium entryway ceilings and the area behind the stage. One option being considered was to seek the matching funds (\$50,000) from CPA funds. While this is a legitimate use of CPA funds the meeting addressed the issue as to the timeliness of such a request given that the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is in the process of finalizing the Community Preservation Plan (public hearing scheduled for April 12th but no discussion re specific applications will be held at this time).

The Community Preservation Plan has the following timeline for 2010 applications:

June 1 – Project Eligibility Forms Due

July 15 – Completed Project Applications Due

November 15 – Estimated Project Award

If the CHRC were to apply to CPC for the matched funding the MHC would need to have written documentation of “CPC and City Council approval confirmation of the matching share received by the MHC no later than May 15.” The timeline for obtaining this approval would be require a special meeting of the CPC, submission to the Mayor to request City Council approval, referral of this request to City Council Building and Finance sub-committee and City Council vote. The pros and cons of an application for seeking matched funds were discussed.

Sandy left the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Further discussion ensued – CHRC doesn’t want to compromise its options for going for more money in June by potentially creating resistance; the timeframe for seeking funds in the proposed Plan is rapidly approaching; the timeframe for obtaining City Council approval would be very tight. While the CHRC wants to obtain all possible funding it was decided not to seek the matched funds from CPA. Better to scale back the project to the highest priority (the tower). \$10,000 exists in the Bruce J. Anderson grant account. MOTION made by Mary McCarl and seconded by J.J. Bell that the CHRC apply to MHC MPPF Round 16 for \$10,000 to complete the City Hall Tower Phase 1 project, namely the re-sheathing of the interior walls of the tower, estimated to cost \$20,000.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Maggie will continue to work on the draft.

Bonding the Amount of Money Needed to Complete the Exterior Restoration of City Hall

Bill asked how much it would cost to bond the \$3.5 million.

Maggie said that the information in the Facilities Capital Management Report (February 2010) indicated that the annual cost would be approximately \$250,000 for a 30-year municipal bond at 6%.

J.J. said that the CPA funds can be used for a bond issue and that he would follow up with Matt Lustig requesting that Matt prepare a memo clarifying how the City might bond against CPA funds. Once the CHRC has a better understanding of the bond issue we will seek a meeting with the City Treasurer for more specifics, prior to a discussion with the Mayor and City Council President. This to occur before submitting an application for CPA funding in May/June.

Seeking Federal Funds

Steve Dexter will contact Bruce Tarr to ask him to attend a meeting of the CHRC to discuss how we might approach Senator Scott Brown for his assistance.

Mary to contact Roger Fisk who works for Senator Kerry re seeking Kerry's help.

Other Fundraising Opportunities

Steve Pardee has made a bench using some of the saved timber from the tower exterior. He needs to get it out of his work area and Steve Dexter offered space in his building. Jan advised that the auction of the bench should be coincident with the announcement of the bell ringing program.

This raised the topic of how to involve the many people who have volunteered ideas for fundraising.

Names that came up included John Sulton, (recently retired GHS cabinetry teacher), Camilla MacFadyen (silk screen artist), Dawn Dexter, Lee Cunningham (jewelry artist), sock hop person, Juni van Dyke (quilts project), Artists Concept of City Hall. Jan will start to keep a notebook of people with the intent of finding somebody who can assume the prime responsibility for volunteer coordination.

One suggestion was to form a Friends of City Hall group.

Clock/Bell Project Update

J.J. reported that he is in contact with David Campbell regarding the start of work.

Auditorium Window

No update. It is a concern to the CHRC.

May Preservation Month Events – Preserving Gloucester Event

Maggie mentioned that the Cape Ann Museum is organizing events on Thursday May 27 at 7:00 p.m.

(Introduction by David Rhineland, Chair of the GHC, followed by 10 min presentation by the participating organizations with display materials) and Saturday May 29 (Open Houses between 10:00 a.m and 1 p.m.) to celebrate Preservation Month. Participating sites are City Hall, Sargent House, Sawyer Free Library, Schooner Adventure, Beauport and the White-Ellery House. The Committee for the Arts will also participate, Roger Armstrong serving as the spokesperson.

Maggie to book City Hall.

National Historic District Landmark (“Gloucester Maritime History 1840-1945)

Mary reported that both Harriet Webster (GMHC) and Iain Kerr (Paint Factory) are interested in participating in the application. The NPS remains very interested in including Our Lady of Good Voyage. J.J. approached Billy Lynch who has very close associations with the church and Mr. Lynch will speak to Father Alves about talking to the powers that be in Boston. Mr. Lynch thinks that there will be a quick yes/no answer.

Mary commented on the Smithsonian website

http://americanhistory.si.edu/onthewater/exhibition/3_4.html.

Meantime Mary will continue her research on more sites including the State Fish Pier. Deadline for application is November 1, 2010 which will be followed by a decision-making meeting in Washington, DC in May 2011.

Falcons

Mike Wells sent two photos of the falcons captured by the webcam.

Cape Ann Magazine Article

A treasure

Minutes

Minutes of the previous meetings were accepted as is (March 22 – no quorum; March 15; March 8)

Next Meeting; Monday April 5th at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting closed at 11:45 a.m.