

**Paul Revere Heritage Commission
Minutes of February 24, 2020
Tavern Meeting Room
Pequitside Farm**

Meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:00 pm.

Introduction of PRHC Members and PRHC volunteers present:

Victor Del Vecchio, Chairman PRHC
Nichola Gallagher, Canton Public Schools
Melissa Mayer, Conservation Commission
Tom Scully, Planning Board
John McCourt, Chairman Parks & Recreation
Mike Nourse, Historical Commission and PRHC Marketing
Lisa Lopez, Chair of the Open Space Committee and PRHC Sources of Revenue
Bruce Beckham, Citizen At Large (via speaker phone)
George Comeau, Community Preservation Committee (arrived 7:15 PM)
Emily Prigot, PRHC Wayfinding/Interpretive Signage
Julia Volfson, PRHC Marketing Committee
Louis Jutras, Town of Canton IS Dept.
Ms. Cohen, Resident
Joyce Stenmon, Preview Room Committee

Introduction of new Administrative Assistant:

Rachel Agiorgitis, the new Administrative Assistant, has a background in landscape architecture and public projects, working most recently for the City of Lowell as the Chief Design Planner.

Acceptance of prior Commission meeting minutes

A Motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of January 13, 2020.

Voted: 7-0-0

Preview / Exhibition Room

Nichola Gallagher explained that the work continues on narrowing down the text of the core narrative(s), which are the story lines for each of the bays in the Preview Room. The designer, Dan Wallis of The Square Office has produced initial concept sketches. However, PRHC needs to provide the designer with more information. PRHC is approximately a month and a half behind schedule in regards to the information they need to provide to the designer.

Status of the Rolling Mill Renovations

Chairman Del Vecchio reported that the renovation progress is moving along very well. The locations of the lighting fixtures and electrical outlets have all been decided. The flooring has been chosen. The wall board is all up and sanding is underway. The rough plumbing on the second floor is almost started. The insulation is all in. Everything is going well and the work is continuing quickly.

Chairman Del Vecchio reviewed the status of the USS Constitution replica. The Chairman met with the donors and reviewed the idea of hanging the replica in a second floor location, visible from the first floor. The donors were quite pleased. He also reached out to the USS Constitution museum and received information on some local hobbyists who could assist with the installation.

Update on launch of “Paul Revere Day” Grand-Opening and Fundraiser

Melissa Mayer reported that currently she and Emily Bhatti (who could not be here this evening) are developing assignments and will provide more information by the end of the week. The goal is still to hold the Grand-Opening in June, but this must be coordinated with the restaurant. Ms. Gallagher commented that the Preview Room may not be quite ready by June, but more likely July. Chairman Del Vecchio added that he has discussed the logistics of the Opening with the Board of Selectman (BOS) and other departments, such as Police and Fire. The general response is that the Grand-Opening is a reasonable undertaking from their perspective and they don't anticipate any problems. It was agreed that the PRHC will decide what makes sense, although it may be better to slow down rather than present a product that the members are not happy with.

Other Sources of Revenue Committee Update

Ms. Lisa Lopez reported that the decision on the grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) is coming in the next few months. Town Planner, Ms. Laura Smead, is making a plan for hiring a master plan designer, once the grant funds are available.

Public/private Legislation - update

Chairman Del Vecchio explained that the PRHC's legislation process involves a “Special Act” and thus is required to be referred to the Secretary of State, with his response due within thirty days. The PRHC bill was sent to Mr. Galvin on February 10, 2020 and he has until March 10, 2020 to respond. This past Friday (February 21, 2020), Secretary of State Galvin indicated that there were no objections. Next, the legislation will be sent to a state committee, which will take more months. In general, the process is moving along well.

Wayfinding / Interpretive Signage Project

Emily Prigot reported that the last draft was sent to Chairman Del Vecchio for review and some small edits were made. The designer has made the corresponding updates and will send a new PDF for final review. Once the final draft receives the PRHC's approval and sign-off, the sign panels will be fabricated and shipped. In addition, a color sample has been sent today by the designer and will require PRHC's approval. The signage project is very close to complete.

Chairman added that in addition to the informative sign panels, there will be an “eleventh” sign describing the grant of land and the park rules. This sign will follow the format and design issued by the Town of Canton. If anyone has final thoughts on this, please contact him directly.

Chairman Del Vecchio reminded everyone that all but one sign panel base has been installed. He also expressed thanks to the Sign Committee for their hard work, as the signage panels are beautiful.

Open Space Committee

Access is needed to the site from Neponset Street. The bridge at that location is not ready for vehicular traffic, and a traffic signal will at some point be needed. With a delay on steel deliveries world-wide, the signal will be installed sometime in the future. In the meantime, if not available for vehicular traffic, the bridge will in any event be open for pedestrians. Town Administrator Charlie Aspinwall will coordinate this with the developer of the condos.

Ms. Lopez emphasized that a solution for the geese problem needs to be found before opening the site to the public. The idea of a coyote statue is being considered. Anticipating snow, it was decided that it would be best to keep the park closed this winter. But with spring around the corner, the geese problem needs to be addressed. In addition, the official set of rules, “The Ten Commandments”, will be finalized and posted in the park for visitors to follow.

Ms. Lopez suggested that a flagpole to be installed on the site, with electrical available for night lighting. Mr. Comeau said that there are existing flagpoles stored on-site. In addition, there are other artifacts on-site that could be used for outdoor display. There is a large bell, for example. Mr. Comeau has a sketch showing examples of other parks with bells on display.

It was confirmed that dog waste stations will be installed on the site.

Vice-chair Vacancy

Chairman Del Vecchio announced the PRHC is looking for a candidate for the vacant Vice-Chair position. He urged everyone to consider a good candidate to nominate or self-nominate, which will be decided at the next meeting. Mr. Comeau suggested setting up a poll to generate possible candidates.

PRHC Project Information Gathering

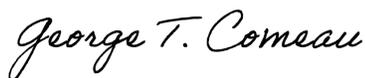
If anyone has information about the project such as photos, written materials, news articles, etc., please submit them to the Administrative Assistant. Rachel will be developing a library of information and stored files. Her email is heritage@town.canton.ma.us

Questions

Ms. Cohen, interested citizen, commented that she has seen many interesting items on the site, left over from the factory. Objects such as metal fire extinguishers, flat nails, etc. They appear to be treasures and she is wondering if they will be used on the project. Mr. Comeau responded that these items are not valuable and are owned by the developer. Ms. Cohen then asked if the condos will be occupied by the June or July launch party. Chairman Del Vecchio responded that they would be occupied by that time, with the first Certificate of Occupancy already issued. He added that the first two buildings are nearly sold-out.

Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Del Vecchio at approximately 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



George T. Comeau
Clerk

* Next meeting has been proposed for Monday, March 30, 2020