

**City of South Portland
Arts & Historic Preservation Committee
December 7, 2017
Planning and Development Department**

Members in attendance:

Kathy Di Filippo, So Po Historical Society	Doreen Gay, Vice Chairperson
Hannah Holmes	Jessica Kessler
Ashley Krulik	Alessa Wylie, Greater Portland Landmarks

Staff in attendance: Charles “Tex” Haeuser, Planning & Development Director

Members absent: Susan Hasson

Guests: Lynn Duryea

Vice Chairperson Doreen Gay called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Minutes: A motion to accept the November 2nd meeting was made by Kathy, seconded by Jessica and were accepted.

Election of new officers

The following nominations were made to fill the positions of chairperson, vice chairperson and secretary for 2018:

Chairperson: Hannah Holmes

Vice Chairperson: Doreen Gay

Secretary: Ashley Krulik

Kathy motioned to elect the slate of officers as stated, seconded by Jessica and unanimously passed.

South Portland Gateway Design Proposal

Tex will be presenting the design proposal to the City Council on December 18th and he asked if AHPC would vote to endorse the plan. The three major elements of the design are: story line, gateposts and layered landscape. Following a discussion regarding potential light pollution and the sustainability of the design, Ashley made a motion to endorse the concept of the plan, with the knowledge that there will be further comment/discussion of details in the future. Kathy seconded and it was unanimously passed. Tex also asked if Hannah would attend the meeting on December 18th to show the AHPC’s support. If Hannah can’t make it, Doreen is available.

Redbank Celebration

With Adrian off the committee, no one really knows what is actually happening for this. This led to a discussion about the lack of representation in districts 4 and 5 on the committee. Adrian was the District 5 representative and now is the District 5 council member. It is hoped that he will quickly appoint a District 5 member to the committee. Jessica asked how the committee could become more visible to the community out there and Tex suggested that perhaps the committee could present a resolution celebrating the history of the area to the council. Doreen notes that Adrian mentioned that we should contact Mary DeRose regarding the Redbank celebration

Action Item: Contact Adrian to get more information on the celebration and about his potential appointment to the AHPC committee from his district.

Online Research Presentation by Kathy

Deed records of the Cumberland County Registry of Deed are online and can be accessed at:

<http://www.maineregistryofdeeds.com>

Property searches cannot be conducted using the street address. The best way to begin is to have a book/volume and page number for the property. These are usually found at the end of the property description in a deed.

If you do not have a book/volume and page number, you can find that information at the South Portland Assessor's Office using the street address.

Once you have that information go to the Registry of Deeds website and choose: Recorded Land; Volume Search; Volume and Page Number. When you enter the Volume and Page Number it will bring up the document. You can then view the deed.

The language you are looking for is sale of "a certain lot of land with buildings there on". You then trace the property back until you come upon a deed which just says "a certain lot of land". When you find that deed you will have an approximate idea of when the building was built.

Round Robin

Ashley – No progress on the Google Docs question due to scheduling conflicts. Will keep trying.

Also, a big thank you to Ashley for taking on the Secretary position.

Jessica – met with Lloyd Reynolds at the South Portland marina and got a long history of the marina. Not quite the information she was looking for but still, a great connection has been made.

Griffin Club – the new owner has stated that the building can't be saved. Is proposing new building with bar on ground floor and offices/condo on upper floors. Several issues need to be resolved, including parking.

Knightville – lots of development pressure in this area. Residents' voices haven't always been heard.

Question for the committee:

What is the committee's goal in terms of neighborhood evolution and the urgency relating to loss and the arts?

What design standards are in place in neighborhoods in South Portland?

For next meeting:

Review of Knightville neighborhood – ask Tex to bring aerial photo of the area

Alessa to give information on historic districts.

Homework: Think about urgent challenges to South Portland's historic and artistic health.

Kathy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ashley and meeting concluded at 9:00 a.m.

Next Meeting: January 4, 2018 at 7:30 a.m.