

City of South Portland
Arts and Historic Preservation Committee
Meeting
June 10, 2015, 8:00-9:15am
Planning Department, Sawyer & Ocean Sts.
MINUTES

Present: Jane Batzell, Adrian Dowling, Tex Haeuser, Amanda Larson, Jessica Routhier, Rob Schreiber, Aimée Turner, Scott Whitaker. Absent: Kathy DiPhilippo, John Schwartzman.

Also present: Hilary Bassett, Christopher Closs, and Hannah Allen, from Greater Portland Landmarks.

Jessica Routhier called the meeting to order at 8:05am.

Minutes of May 13 meeting accepted.

Discussion: Meeting Schedule

Changes to the meeting schedule were discussed. We shall keep the existing schedule (2nd Wednesday of the month, 8:00am) year-round.

Presentation by Greater Portland Landmarks on the Willard Neighborhood Survey

This Survey was made possible by a Horizon Foundation grant toward identifying “Places in Peril.” Willard was identified as at particular risk. Field time for the survey took 6-8 weeks. Christopher Closs’s visual summary included examples of the many styles of residential buildings, as well as a few commercial buildings, in the Willard Neighborhood. Structures surveyed range from 1725 to 1965. Survey is fundamental to any kind of preservation efforts or ordinances; “Quality information leads to better planning.”

Future surveys are recommended. Grant money may be available to us through the Certified Local Government Program. We are well-positioned to survey additional regions because a corps of trained volunteers is already in place. Possible areas include (but are not limited to) Sylvan Sites, Loveitt’s Field, Meetinghouse Hill, and Ferry Village. Hannah suggests that this project is suitable for interns or graduate students.

Results of surveying could include placing neighborhoods on the National Registry, which can lead to tax credits or reduced premium fees for flood insurance. Hilary explains that the Registry can help property owners protect the value of their investment, as Registered neighborhoods tend to sustain strong value.

Jane suggests that existing Knightville data be entered into the CARMA database. Jessica recommends we examine other municipalities Historic Preservation ordinances (available online – public record).

Outreach & education would promote benefits and reduce misconceptions of the Registry. Methods include the South Portland Historical Society column in the Sentry, a table at Art in the Park, or print material available at the circulation desk at the Library.

Vision Statement discussion will be moved to the July agenda.

Next meeting: July 8, 2015, 8:00am.