

City of South Portland
Arts & Historic Preservation Committee
August 7th, 2019
Planning and Development Department

Members in attendance:

Hannah Holmes, Chairperson
Jessica Kessler, Secretary
Mary DeRose
Doreen Gay, Vice Chairperson
Kathy DiPhilippo, South Portland Historical Society
Alessa Wylie, Greater Portland Landmarks
Mark Wiesendanger

Absent:

Jon Godin
Jim Flahaven

Staff in attendance:

Justin Barker, Community Planner

Chairperson Hannah Holmes called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m.

Minutes: Hannah made a motion to accept the June minutes, Jessie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Adaptive reuse discussion: Justin gave an update on the council meeting regarding the ordinance, which went into effect as of August 6th. He suggested eliminating the comprehensive plan list because it names areas instead of specific properties. Kathy suggested going to the council to request the removal of properties and areas that are not in need of preservation. The consensus was reached that those areas are too vague to be included in the delay. Kathy and Doreen recommended submitting the partial list we have already worked on to the council, as a start. The committee reviewed the Greater Portland Landmark list of properties. Kathy pointed out that the Captain Nichols House name and address needed to be corrected. Members then discussed the Scammon Block, at 83 Ocean. Alessa offered to research why it was included on the list. Members discussed 16 Franklin Terrace/Street, recognizing an issue with the address. It appears to be new construction, and was considered for removal from the list. Alessa offered to check on the status of the property. The committee reviewed the Willard Beach Casino, resolving that it ought to be moved to an archeological list. It was decided that the Marine Railway/Aspasia Marina buildings should stay on the list, adding the Front Street address. After much discussion, members concluded that most of the Greater Portland Landmark list is archeologically significant. Members also recognized that the process of amending the GPL list is daunting and extensive. It was decided to leave it alone until the next comprehensive plan review, and to alert code enforcement to not flag these areas due to the errors and inadequacies of the list, with the exception of the Marine Railway (Aspasia) and Brown Hill Church properties.

Historic Resource List Update: Representatives from 265 Cottage Road came to speak, requesting that it be added to the list. Mary made a motion to add the property, Jessie seconded. The committee entered discussion of the property, identifying which criteria qualified it for inclusion. It was determined that the

property fit criteria 3 and 4. A vote was called, and the motion passed unanimously. Justin opened discussion on the inclusion of 161 Preble Street, as it has been requested by the property owner, Mark Aliquo. Members discussed the qualifying criteria for this property. Kathy stated it fits criteria 3 and 4. Kathy made a motion to include the property on our list, with Doreen seconding. Alessa opposed, and the motion passed with all others in favor.

Public Art Update: Justin gave a presentation on the proposed Avesta Housing project, including opportunities for public art on the site. Mark suggested members research the Hartley Block on Lisbon St. in Lewiston, as an example of how public art shaped that property. Mary expressed a desire to see public art on the triangle of land at the Avesta site, educating the committee on the history and significance of the space. Justin recommended that someone contact Avesta with the suggestion of public art on the triangle. Doreen offered to email Tex to explore this idea further.

Connector Trail Update: Justin informed the committee that the city voted to sign the license agreement for the trail, and that construction will begin very soon.

Hannah made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jessie.

Meeting concluded at 9 a.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 2nd, 2019 at 7:30 a.m.