

**City of South Portland
Arts & Historic Preservation Committee
February 6th, 2019
Planning and Development Department**

Members in attendance:

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

Staff in attendance:

Charles “Tex” Hauser, Planning & Development Director
Justin Barker, Community Planner

Guest: Steve Cecil, Harriman Company (via conference call)

Chairperson Hannah Holmes called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Minutes: Kathy made a motion to accept the January minutes, seconded by Mary. The motion passed unanimously.

Adaptive reuse discussion: Justin reviewed the finalized wording for the Adaptive Reuse Ordinance. Kathy expressed concern with the use of Appendix J, citing errors in the list of historic resources. Members discussed methods of correcting these errors, timing, and effectiveness of including these resources at this point in the process. Hannah explained that the committee can correct the errors with our first submittal to the council. Tex suggested changing the language of 2-145 slightly to say “Shall be based on Appendix J,” rather than “shall include Appendix J.” Mary made a motion to favorably recommend the ordinance to the city council, seconded by Doreen. The motion passed unanimously. Justin requested that members of the committee try to attend the council workshop on Tuesday, February 12th at 6:30pm. Justin requested that the demo delay discussion be stricken from next month’s agenda.

Art Subcommittee Report: Jessie and Doreen discussed the wording of the armory letter with the full committee. Mary made a motion to approve the language and submit the letter to the owner of the Armory. Hannah seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Gateway Discussion: Tex reported the progress of the Gateway project. A handout of potential designs for the light pole coverings and light wands was circulated for the committee to review. Tex explained that the committee will submit specifications to the Maine Department of Transportation for implementation. Tex went on to say that there is not currently room on the Portland end of the bridge for light wands, but that the decorative sleeves will be across the entirety of the bridge. Tex further explained that on the South Portland end of the bridge, there is a sewer line to consider while placing our light wands and related landscaping.

Steve Cecil of the Harriman Company called into the meeting to discuss the potential designs for the light pole coverings and light wands. Members explored the four available options outlined in the handout. Steve described the design process and the symbolism in each option. Members stated their opinions of the various designs. Jessie suggested that designs using wave patterns could be made more appealing by varying the width and curvature of each wave, simulating a more realistic seascape. This idea was met favorably, and Steve pledged to take it into consideration for the next round of design efforts, with an updated design available for the next meeting.

Armory Kiosk Update: Doreen gave an update on the Armory Kiosk, explaining that they are currently searching for an appropriate photograph to be included in the kiosk design. Doreen expressed that finding such an obscure photograph is a significant challenge.

Hinkley Connector Update: Justin informed the committee that CMP and the City are in negotiations regarding the connector trail. Work should begin this spring, with the trail hopefully complete by summertime.

Historic Resource List Update: Mary shared that the tax assessor's office has given her a list of 403 properties built prior to 1900. Members discussed how to incorporate these into the Historic Resource List. Jon suggested we focus on properties related to significant people, rather than simply the date built. Hannah explained that six months ago, she and Jon were working on the list, using the Historic Significance Form that she created. She further explained that this form was an effective tool in their effort to include essential details for each property. Hannah went on to request that the committee plan a "retreat" to focus on refining the list with as many members present as possible, considering the size of the task. Justin offered to create an online poll to best choose a date for the retreat, adding that the committee needs to have a finalized format for the resource list prior to submitting it to the city. Kathy expressed concern that we have not yet determined how to alert property owners of their inclusion on the list. Justin requested that public notification be added to the agenda for our next meeting.

Round Robin: Jessie asked about the inclusion of google login information as the signature in AHPC emails, wondering if it may make our documents vulnerable. The login info was included as a guide for members who were struggling to access files in the past. Jon offered to change the signature of the AHPC email to remove the login information.

Hannah made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jessie.

Meeting concluded at 9 a.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 6th , 2019 at 7:30 a.m.