

Draft Minutes

Mason County Historic Preservation Commission

March 14, 2024

Mason County Department of Health Meeting Room

415 N. 6th Street

Shelton, WA 98584

Members Present: Ed Huber, Dave Dally, Bill Jensen, Caleb Cowles, and Andi Exo

Members Excused: Jan Goodpaster

County Staff: Luke Viscusi and Mariah Frazier

I. Call to order

Roll Call- Mr. Huber called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

Review and Approve Minutes from February 8, 2024 – Mr. Huber asked to correct a typo. Mr. Dally made a motion to approve the February 8, 2024, minutes as amended. Mr. Cowles seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Correspondence-

- MCHS March Newsletter

II. New Business

Announcements – Mr. Cowles provided some historic photos of a Camp Grisdale saw shack that has been converted. He had met with the property owner and thought he'd be a good candidate for the Plaque Program.

2024 Heritage Grant Update – Mr. Viscusi stated the contracts had been approved by the BOCC and after being signed by Mr. Huber would be sent to the applicants for signatures.

North Bay Historical Society 2023 Heritage Grant Final Report Review – Members reviewed the Final Report. An invoice was provided, but no receipt that they had paid the invoice. Mr. Cowles made a motion to approve the Final Report pending receiving a receipt. Motion was seconded by Mr. Dally. All in favor, motion carried.

Grant Review Retrospective – Looking back at how the grant review process went, members discussed what they liked and didn't for the next grant cycle. They liked being able to review and score ahead of time, but also still wanted to have the opportunity to listen to the grant applicants present their projects and be able to ask questions and amend their scores based on open discussion. They also liked the process of scoring individually and averaging for the total. Mr. Viscusi said he would draft a document for day of review procedures for review at the next meeting.

Question from Mason General Hospital Foundation Arts Commission – The Mason General Hospital Arts Commissioner had reached out to Mr. Viscusi about partnering with Squaxin Tribe for a Heritage Grant next cycle. They wanted to know if they would be allowed to apply for two grants as it's two eligible organizations collaborating. HPC members stated it would be one application for the project, and both organizations would need to include their documentation and explain their contributions.

Harstine Island Community Club & Cemetery – The Harstine Island Community Club had reached out some projects for the Community Club and maintenance to the Harstine Island Cemetery as they're both on the Historic Register. HPC members were unsure of their role regarding the cemetery as it's owned by Mason County. They weren't sure if they would be able to award the cemetery a heritage grant and asked Mr. Viscusi to ask the County legal counsel.

Plaque Program Update – Mr. Viscusi had spoken to a possible future applicant that had recently bought property on Oakland Bay but hadn't done much research yet. They know it's old, but not necessarily how old or what work has or hasn't been done.

Cultural Resources Protection Summit (May 22-23, in Suquamish, WA) – Mr. Viscusi stated in-person attendance is sold out but virtual attendance would be possible if anyone was interested.

Other (if Any) – Mr. Viscusi reminded HPC members of a DAHP webinar on May 15th regarding Federal Historic Tax Credits, Special Tax Valuation, and preservation grants.

Old Business

DAHP Built Environment Summit (April 18, in Lacey WA at SPSCC) – Mr. Viscusi also reminded HPC members of an upcoming free in-person DAHP event on April 18th.

Arcadia Family Farm – Mr. Cowles said he had spoken again with the property owner who is interested in the Plaque Program and would get him the application.

Other (if any) – Mr. Viscusi said he would be doing a new release in April regarding the open position and awarded heritage grants.

III. Other Commission Discussion

Financial Statement- HPC reviewed the statement for February 2024. Mr. Cowles made a motion to accept, seconded by Ms. Exo. All in favor, motion carried.

IV. Next Meeting Date April 11, 2024

V. Adjournment

At 3:19 p.m. Mr. Huber called the meeting adjourned.

To Do:

- Mr. Cowles
 - Continue coordinating with Arcadia farm.
 - Continue coordinating with Camp Grisdale saw shack owner.
 - Look into potential Plaque Program property.

- Mr. Viscusi
 - Get final 2024 Heritage Grant contracts signed by grantees.
 - Forward email regarding DAHP Built Environment Summit to HPC members.
 - Get North Bay Historical Society's receipt of payment for their 2023 Heritage Grant.
 - Complete North Bay Historical Society 2023 Heritage Grant reimbursement.
 - Respond to Mason General Hospital Foundation Arts Commission's grant inquiry.
 - Respond to Harstine Island Community Club & Cemetery's deed inquiry.
 - Draft Heritage Grant review procedures for discussion at next meeting.