

Cruising the Commonwealth
Plymouth
July 20, 2017
The Loring Center

Plymouth Antiquarian Society
Hedge House on Water Street

Pastor Stott - generous enough to allow us to utilize the space. Share the info and history of the building.

The Library was created by the Cordage Company back in 1897 (center room) church was built in 1895,
(look up history of the Loring Center

Built for the immigrant workers from Italy, Germany and Portugal.

Connection to the Loring family - up on North Shore as well, look up status of the Loring House, - lib
went from a Cordage facility and a town owned briefly, then a few businesses, a winery, sat vacant for a
while.

Town stopped Walmart from tearing the library down completely.

Land transactions and actual move happened in 2000, used as a community center, church owns the
building, able to rent, money maker for the church as well.

MO – Old State House in Boston
takes care of the OSH, south facade work, carpentry work, etc. Major mechanical work, keep an
environment that will maintain the building.

Spent time with the 1820 Court House Consortium, though the Plymouth Redevelopment Association to
find a use for the Courthouse, great to see the town take on the project,

JG - described what the CR's do. Facilitate local community preservation.
Role is to really help organizations and people get access to the resources that they need.

JWI- thumbnail as to why we are doing this...

9 stops, culminating in MHPC in Lowell, 9/22

Felt strongly about doing a meeting in Plymouth, to meet with the local people.

Talked about a lot of things, challenges, education, funding, etc. But heard a lot of success stories.

JG- the timing of this with other things, the conference and the Massachusetts Preservation Coalition,

JWI- update on the MPC and what it has accomplished

Biggest preservation challenge facing your community right now.

MO- in Boston

What has happened in the last two to three years, the number of empty buildings on main street, just off main street in Plymouth, projects have started to go in, courthouse, armory, registry of deeds, post office, things are finally turning in the past three years or so... good for Plymouth, there was a while not much going on.

Now there is Spire center, P has finally turned the corner towards investing in the older structures and proper use of them.

PA - amazing the amount of change that has happened, so much growth, the development of the Pine Hills, brought new people to Plymouth, good and bad, puts pressure on the town itself, infrastructure. Love it that the register of deeds and post office and residential, parking and concerns, especially with 2020 coming on. ‘

So much growth, on Main street, the historic district in downing Plymouth, new arts organizations that are really blooming, center for the arts and spire center, just created the Plymouth Bay Cultural Districts (Mass Cultural Council), lots of excitement and what they can do, sometimes there is tension between the cultural organizations and historic commission, they see historic district as getting in the way of wanting to have ideas for creating a vibrant cultural district...

Want to preserve the historic fabric of the community and it should be vibrant

relationship building with business owners, need to get people on board and how preservation is a tool

Education is a big topic and a concern. How educated are people on the HC's they want to do the right thing, but don't know how to accomplish that.

How it is presented, perception

perception... how can we be a part of better educating people on commissions, homeowners, realtors, with historic houses, etc.

MO

Realtors - Preservation Alliance of Minnesota -a good resources.

Trends: a lot of building being converted to condos - a concern -
Here, the schools to condos, that seems to be the reuse trend of the past several years.

concerning trend - its' more of a variety, to that people are doing a long-term view....

parking -

excited about the Plymouth Bay Cultural district.

Even with the center for the arts, there isn't a note tour than eating to do in downtown, encouraging spaces to create condos, they need something to do.

concern along main street corridor, etc. make sure people know that downtown is more than just water street.

Burial Hill - biggest preservation concern, in terms of the interpretation and getting people up there... people should see burial hill and the connection to Plymouth and the historic district.

Destination Plymouth - tourism heritage

Embarrassment of riches, how do you collaborate and herd all those cats into a cohesive experience

With 2020 a lot of people asking for resources.

Plymouth

Plymouth Historical Alliance - started in the 70's, talk about what they are doing... meet a few times a year, talk about what they are doing.

Plantation can seem a little territorial...

More of a presence

Plymouth has become its own destination...

Plymouth after the Pilgrims...

beautiful intact buildings, the story after, 18th and early

Backroads of the South Shore (a group founded in 2000), loose consortium of historical societies and museums, from Hull to Plymouth, a local history symposium held at the Spire Center, trying to promote each other, so their, lots of historic communities, a lot of the organizations involved with back roads have

Duxbury Rural Historical Society, major restoration of the Bradford House, reinterpretation, focus on 19th century women there, lots of great projects happening along the rt. 3A corridor. Meet to help each other brainstorm ideas about preservation and programming.

Tourism: it is a complicated town, understood the story and how to tell it, things to do...

Resources - received CPA grants in the past, on all three of the houses, 3 major projects within the last three years, CPA, some grants from MHC, others, not recently.

Bill Keohane does a good job, has to build everyone's trust, doing a good job at articulating the benefits of open space, HP, affordable housing...

Plymouth is huge geographically....

lots of different "towns" within Plymouth... separate in some ways into hamlets...

One of the things that works is that they have the villages and they have the town and unifies everyone. the overseer.

In terms of preservation, the different villages have taken different focuses on different things, the Loring Center, the Cordage Historical Society,

Benefits if you have different projects in different places.

the most active of the south shore town.

It is a real place, it's not a bedroom community.

Are there any particular historic resources, building or setting, that you feel needs special attention, or even type of building, repurposing buildings, etc.

Historic structures are a really good option for active space use, everything from restaurants, breweries, arts centers, things, come look at what we are doing here, what we are doing as a business and we are in this great historic building. Cordage, a building with great potential, other things to do in the building... think the center for the arts and spire are great examples of things to do.

Lewiston Maine, working to transform all the mill buildings, restaurants, breweries, spaces that were active and not just a huge stretch of condos, etc. A lot of people get stuck (when they hear the idea of preserving or saving the building) they don't follow it can be done as a reuse or adaptive reuse, they think it means making everything a museum.

The education piece, there are a lot of different options for saving a portion of it,

Public perception of preservation, apprehension toward saving structures is cost and what is it really going to be, do we really need this, etc. To some extent the larger push for energy efficiency, there is the whole discussion about window, everyone is looking to lower energy bills, easy to buy into that...

MO- interested in what you have seen as the influence or misunderstanding of the role of the NPS...

Burial, having a Plymouth Historic Park, being a major component for that. I don't think it went anything beyond investigation,

NPS- a lot of people assume the national park is footing the bill, why should we pay admission to go see this historic house, isn't that

Discussion on MPPF, State funds, MCCF, etc.

do you think there is more competition for state funds, decline of sources...?

Economic impact of historic preservation. - more education...

What can PM do to better lobby for MPPF....

MHRTC increase...

How can PM be more helpful:

having another level when these questions arise, is helpful

Demo Delay By-law, stop a demo of an early 18th century house,

Creating educational resources, materials, holding a meeting like this but with town selectmen and town meeting members 0-Mass municipal association, holding some meetings like this.

It's about jobs and revitalizing communities, and economic development.

The 1820 courthouse is the biggest selling point, more activist on main street and downtown, not saint the courthouse, putting them in the middle of things and more activity. the jobs created, private project...

PM has benefited from business community....

Scituate historical society has done a GAR hall converted into a rental space, doing some interesting space.

Hedge House, open through tours Wednesday through Sunday 2 - 6.