

Approved at 21 Sep 2017
Meeting



17 Aug 2017
Heritage Commission Conference Room
237 Atlantic Avenue

Present:

Paul Cuetara
Jane Currivan
Donna Etela, Chair

Jim Maggiore
Cynthia Swank

Alternates: Carolyn Brooks, Jeff Hillier (arrived 10:30am), Vicki Jones

Absent: Nancy Monaghan, Jane Robie

1. Call to Order at 9: 35am. Jones to vote for Robie.

2. Treasurer's Report. Due to absence of Town Finance Director, no Treasurer's report. July and August reports will be discussed at the September meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes. July 18, 2017 minutes as written were approved (Jones moved, Currivan seconded).

4. Old Business

FEMA Grant update. Chair emailed Lisa Mausolf who asked that members send her any additional corrections or additions to the draft she had distributed. She is trying to wrap up in the next month or so. Maggiore indicated that he had provided the perambulation photos taken by the Hampton selectman. He will send to everyone.

275th Town Anniversary. Swank related some details of the August meeting of the Committee. (See that Committee's minutes on the town website).

PSU intern Hillary Christopher attended, and she and Swank walked around the Common after the meeting. The method to use the information Priscilla Leavitt prepared has undergone another change. Swank spoke with the Youth Services librarian and learned that the story walk construction at the Library had not worked out well..

The plan now is for Christopher to prepare a handout that can be distributed at the October events and also be placed on the Town website and remain available at the usual Town buildings as well as at bandstand concerts next year.

The revised description will include images and a map denoting where structure are/were located. Christopher also will add the bandstand, bricks, and lights to the document.

Swank mentioned that Leavitt was unaware of any specific information about the cannons, removed and used as part of the war effort in the 1940s, or the anchors that replaced them after the war. She asked because Christopher and she noticed there is no marker on either of the anchors.

Brooks related that the cannons had been sunk in the river by the Navy Yard with the portion above the waterline used for tying up boats. Brooks had no information about the origin and history of the cannons. The Historical Society has photographs of the Common showing the cannons, and will try to get a volunteer to do research.

Brooks said her mother, Louise Goss Brooks, was a member of the Bush and Bud (Garden) Club. After the war, the Club wished to make use of the two concrete bases on which the cannons had stood; she volunteered to write the Navy. She was successful and the Navy provided the anchors.

Town Hall. Maggiore reported that the Town is awaiting proposals from numerous firms listed in the NH Preservation Alliance directory. It obtained one from the firm that did much of the Town Hall restoration work; a private citizen earlier had obtained two different quotes from a local contractor. There was no scope of work document so it is not possible to make a comparison among them.

The private citizen recently spoke during the public comment session of a Select Board meeting at which time he made several inaccurate statements and even suggested a citizens' petition to do the work evidently as he wishes it to be done. Members questioned political motivations that may be in play.

Members agreed that it is the Commission's responsibility to respond to mis-information about the role of the Heritage Commission, what it means for a building to be on the National Register, and the previous restoration efforts to Town Hall. To avoid exacerbating the personal animosity that has developed in recent years between individuals, members agreed that the Commission will request time at a Select Board meeting where Town Hall is to be discussed; and chose by consensus Hillier as the speaker.

Maggiore will send the original quotes to members. Jones and Cuetara will research the history of Town Hall restoration efforts.

HC Webpages. Swank noted that the Town cannot put a link to OneDrive on its website for the Eagle Scout barn survey project and noted that the Agricultural Commission and others to whom she has provided copies of the spreadsheets also cannot link the photos with the identifying data. She asked whether the Town's IT vendor might provide the expert advice to make the survey's inclusion on the Town website possible. Maggiore will ask.

Barn Easements. Maggiore had distributed the revised procedures to be put in place next Spring for any barn easement applications; there were no comments on the procedures themselves but members agreed that the Assessor should not provide the dollar figures of the various percentages to the Heritage Commission; the Commission's responsibility only relates to the merits of the structure based upon the State guidelines.

DOT Drake Hill Bridge. The Chair deferred until the next regular meeting .

Action items. None

5. New Business.

Etela related an incident at one of the Exeter Road cemeteries. A realtor placed a sign in the cemetery itself for an adjoining property. After leaving phone messages and emails to no avail, Etela and her husband spoke to a realtor from the firm before an open house event. After the discussion, Lauri Etela retrieved the sign and gave to the realtor. The sign is now on the property that is for sale. The realtor did not seem to know that the cemetery was not part of the property.

6. Next Meeting Date & Time. Work Session, Friday, Aug 25, tentatively Mary Herbert Room, 2 pm;
Regular Meeting, Thursday, Sep 21 at 9:30am.

Adjourned. 11:01am

Cynthia G. Swank
Recording Secretary