

Approved at
16 Aug 2018 meeting



19 July 2018
Heritage Commission Conference Room
237 Atlantic Avenue

Present:

Paul Cuetara

Jane Currivan (arrived 9:37am)

Donna Etela, Chair

Jim Maggiore

Jane Robie

Cynthia Swank

Alternates: Vicki Jones, Nancy Monaghan

Absent: Carolyn Brooks, Jeff Hiller

1. Call to Order at 9:30am. Designation of Voting - Jones for Currivan until the latter's arrival.
2. Treasurer's Report. Deferred until Treasurer arrived.
3. Approval of Minutes. The May 17, 2018 minutes as prepared (Jones moved, Robie seconded).
4. Old Business

Town Hall RFP. Maggiore reported that the target date for responses is August 3rd. He believes only one proposal has been received. The information from John Schnitzler's report was included in the RFP. Etela asked that the Heritage Commission be provided with the names to whom the proposal was sent and a copy of the RFP, as well as the date it was sent out.

[Currivan arrives 9:37am]

Maggiore indicated it was sent to the thirteen firms whose names he obtained from the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance.

The Chair reiterated the need to remove the bushes around Town Hall to assist in the preservation of the building, a recommendation of both Schnitzler and, two years ago, Steve Bedard. Hub can remove the bushes.

Cuetara noted that Schnitzler's report was broken down by need and the project could be done in segments over several years. It also was pointed out that if the Town chose someone without appropriate qualifications, the Town might require a Clerk of the Works.

Treasurer's report contd. Currivan indicated that the amount available to the Heritage Commission is \$6682.63. That number includes the \$1000 operating budget and takes into account Finance's imminent charge of \$819.35 to the Heritage Fund. The Heritage Fund as of June 30th had

a balance of \$6501.98 representing modest interest income and the \$950 transferred at the end of the fiscal from the operating budget. Finance paid the Minuteman Press invoice of \$1597.50 in February; the Heritage Commission collected \$778.15 from the sale of the booklets at cost. which was turned into the Town. The difference of \$819.35 will be charged to the Heritage Fund.

Cuetara moved, Robie, approved and all approved the Treasurer's report.

Results of Land Use Summit. Etela reported that septic, stone walls, and Certified Local Government were among the topics. The video is available on Town Hall Streaming.

Stone walls. The Heritage Commission cannot do anything beyond what state laws permit unless the walls are in an historic district. The Town does not have any designated historic districts. [see next item for additional discussion]

Septic. Rye has a septic pump-out health regulation for property owners in the Parsons Creek watershed, a copy of which Conservation Commission Chair Lisa Wilson sent to all attendees at the summit. Maggiore says the topic has come up and there was pushback. He mentioned the possible abatement of taxes in the amount charged for pumping out a septic.

The need to educate property owners also was mentioned. Robie noted that historic properties may have dry wells as well as septic systems. Monaghan has spoken with Wilson who recognizes the need to publish a new brochure on the topic. Such an effort was made about ten years ago.

There was consensus that a small group of individuals from Heritage Commission, Conservation Commission, and Planning Board discuss the possibilities. Etela and Currvan expressed interest and Maggiore asked to be invited. Monaghan will contact Wilson and organize.

Certified Local Government [CLG]. Etela invited the attendees at the summit to attend the NH Division of Historic Resources [DHR] presentation about Certified Local Government and Neighborhood Heritage Districts. She passed around a list of the attendees. See next item.

CLG and Neighborhood District Discussion. Etela had sent the presentation given by the NH DHR to members. It was agreed that the powerpoint should be added to the Heritage Commission webpage. By becoming a CLG, a municipality can apply for grants funded by the Federal money intended for CLGs through the NH DHR. It is believed that one of the criteria for becoming a CLG is having a historic district and, if that is the case, the town property containing two National Register buildings, Town Hall and the original North Hampton Library (stone building), might fill the bill.

Etela has spoken with people to gauge their reaction to the possibility of setting up an historic district and applying for Certified Local Government designation. The availability of a new source of funding prompted positive results. Etela then outlined the history of the Heritage Commission and its powers. In 1991, Town meeting approved by a wide margin the creation of an Historic District Commission. In 1997, Town meeting approved an amendment replacing the Historic District Commission with the Heritage Commission but with the Heritage Commission retaining the powers of an historic district commission. Those powers also are referenced in the Commission's by-laws. Etela provided copies to Maggiore. The relevant RSA is 674:44-b III.

Discussion resulted in the following action items:

--Etela will contact Mae Bradshaw to obtain a copy of Rye's application for CLG status and seek advice. (The DHR representatives had mentioned that Rye's recent application was excellent).

--Monaghan will check with the Chair of Planning Board, Tim Harned, Planning would how and when Planning Board would be involved.

--Jones will contact Amy Dixon of DHR about procedures and advice about how to go about the process.

Once more information is obtained, a sub-committee will be set up.

Action Items

Joint meeting with Ag Commission. Etela indicated it will not be necessary. Ganotis the member of the Agricultural Commission spearheading the barn survey effort, will contact the DHR.

5. New Business

Centennial Hall request. Etela reported that Marcy McCann, president of the Friends of Centennial Hall, had asked whether the Heritage Commission might give money to be included in a stewardship fund. LCHIP wants to ensure that grantees have a plan and funds for sustaining the work funded by its grant. Etela believes that Heritage Commissions legally can do so. If the LCHIP grant is approved, the Commission will need to obtain more information about what it and the town might do. McCann mentioned the idea of a warrant article.

Economic Development Committee update. Monaghan reported that the results of the EDC / UNH town survey results will be presented to the Select Board this Monday. Results are on the Town website and appear in the most recent Community Newsletter. Results seem to echo previous surveys. She also noted that fully developing the 32 undeveloped lots on Route 1 appears to have minimal tax impact.

EDC has retained UNH for a free program regarding business retention where businesses will be interviewed four times a year, starting in August.

Etela noted the recent article in the *Hampton Union* about 603 and Me, an advocacy organization to encourage people and businesses to come to NH. It is located in North Hampton in the depot. Nancy-Jane Luff of the North Hampton Business Association knew nothing about the organization. Monaghan will bring it up at EDC.

Other business. Carolyn Brooks informed Etela that she is moving to Riverwoods in the next month or so. She cannot remain an alternate as the RSA does not permit a non-resident to hold the position but has a standing invitation to attend meetings at any time.

Currihan asked whether the Heritage Commission or Historical Society had any old photographs of the former farm at 29 Post Rd. She provided a photocopy of a brief history. Curator Working Group members offered to check the Historical Society collections this afternoon.

6. Next Meeting Date & Time. Aug 16th at 9:30AM.

7. Adjournment 11:12AM.

Cynthia G. Swank
Recording Secretary