

Approved at
17 March 2016 meeting



18 February 2016
Heritage Commission Conference Room
237 Atlantic Avenue

Present:

Paul Cuetara
Donna Etela, Chair
Jim Maggiore
Jane Robie
Cynthia Swank

Alternates: Carolyn Brooks, Jeff Hillier, Vicki Jones

Absent: Jane Currivan, Nancy Monaghan

1. The meeting was properly posted. Called to Order at 9:36 am. Hillier to vote for Currivan.
2. Treasurer's Report. Approved as provided unanimously (Cuetara moved, Maggiore seconded).
3. Approval of Minutes. January 21, 2016 approved as emended by the Secretary unanimously (Cuetara moved, Robie seconded).

4. Old Business

Rails to Trails update. Cuetara reported on the Seacoast Greenway meeting with the NH Department of Transportation representatives on Feb 11, and distributed a meeting summary. He learned that there will be access for horses; that negotiations continue between Pan Am and the state and that several appraisals have been done. He and Maggiore noted that Pan Am has paid the tax bill sent by the Town. There are certain local issues that must be addressed as part of construction, notably the Hampton Marsh, and that towns may have to provide some construction money. Cuetara noted that Portsmouth has the trail as a priority item in its Master Plan and CIP.

He also described Tuesday's meeting of North Hampton Trails. Topics included how to encourage/motivate Pan Am to come to agreement. A discussion ensued about liability and code enforcement issues. Maggiore noted that the Select Boards of all the towns must agree and approve a single document with the State.

Town Campus Facilities/Citizens Petitions. There was a review of the various warrant articles relating to town facilities and the actions of groups and / or individuals who support or do not support the options.

Brooks noted that the Town Administrator had given an excellent presentation at the last PASA lunch. As co-chair of PASA, she had asked Recreation Director Jim O'Hara to invite Apple to speak. She indicated that there had been many questions. Apple will be conducting a public tour of the buildings on Saturday, Feb 20th at 9am and all who have not seen the facilities first-hand are invited to attend.

Maggiore reported that some town officials are being accused of electioneering, with the accuser(s) citing RSA 659.44-a. The Town asked the Library to remove the sign in favor of Article 6 from Town property. Etela noted the less than civil discourse Facebook and social media can engender.

NH Council on the Arts Grant. Swank emailed the NH Council on the Arts grants coordinator Julianne Moore that the Megaethoscope prints are now at NEDCC undergoing conservation thanks to the grant.

FEMA/DHR Disaster Grant. Etela distributed architectural historian Lisa Mausolf's outline of the town-wide historic resources survey she is undertaking. Etela asked members to send her any questions by this weekend and she will convey them to Mausolf.

275th Town Anniversary. Maggiore contacted the person recommended by many to head the effort but does not have a response. The Friday Folder and town website have not elicited any responses.

HC/HDC Date, location, speaker/program/committee. Jones reported that Throwback Brewery is willing to serve as the venue but needs additional information: date and number of people. The room seats 50 and Throwback indicated that it currently is being booked a month in advance. Jones was not able to view the room when she visited but will do so and determine projector capabilities.

Etela had spoken to Mae Bradshaw of the Rye Heritage Commission and Bradshaw thought Rye would be willing to host the meeting if Throwback does not work out.

Megaethoscope restoration, funding. Etela distributed copies of the proposal from Peter J. Sawyer to restore the Megaethoscope and build a stand for it so that it can be operated at a cost not to exceed \$ 3570. Etela will try to raise the money and noted that the \$500 from the sale of the Alethoscope now in the Heritage Fund is earmarked for this purpose.

It was moved by Hillier, seconded by Robie and approved unanimously to raise and appropriate money through private fund-raising or, if necessary, Heritage Commission funds for the restoration of the Megaethoscope. Maggiore indicated that Jan Facella or Paul Apple should be made aware of the contribution of private funds and the Select Board would need to accept such a donation.

Planning Board Community Survey. Hillier attended the meeting Jan 21st., a work session chaired by Tim Harned. The group noted on their own some of the problems Heritage Commission members saw in the draft survey, and incorporated some suggestions made by Commission members who received the draft survey and the Sign Sub-committee. Maggiore indicated that at the Planning Board meeting on Tuesday night, it was agreed that Dan Derby would tweak the survey; Maggiore will send the result to the Commission.

Etela asked that village district be defined; Robie asked how a village district is different from what exists now; and Hillier what is the intent of the survey. The concept of a village district at present is not well articulated. Even the parameters of such an area are not yet agreed upon. Maggiore said the survey results would be incorporated into the Master Plan and affect how the Planning Board may proceed regarding economic development and Route 1. The next Long range Planning Sub-Committee meeting will be in March.

Street Sign Subcommittee. Maggiore will speak with Paul Apple.

Action Items. Cuetara stated that he, Maggiore, Jen Rowden and Scott Bogle of Rockingham Planning Commission will work on the recreation section of the Master Plan as it relates to the rail to trail.

5. New Business

Barn Survey - Eagle Scout project. Etela announced that an Exeter scout troop leader contacted Swank about a Scout interested in a barn project that she had outlined about a year ago as a potential project for another Scout, now working with the North Hampton Historical Society.

The Scout will use the historic resources maps and the spreadsheet of Assessor's data used in creating the historic resources maps, and do a "windshield" survey, taking photos of all existing barns that can be seen from a public road, noting the GPS coordinates, address and tax and map lot number. The Scout and his helpers will have IDs and a letter from the Police Chief to carry with them.

Etela is in the process of getting a rough count of the number of barns by looking at the online Vision database's descriptions and building outlines. She is up to 155 barns.

She asked for members' ideas about the information the Commission wants and could expect from a Scout project, and what additional information or instructions we need to provide. Among the thoughts: recommend quality of photographs necessary, whether barn is attached or free-standing, and location on the property. Make sure the Scout is aware of the Vision Appraisal database. It was agreed this effort in addition to Mausolf's historic resources area survey will be of assistance in the barn easement program, any demolition review processes, and disaster preparedness planning.

Etela also brought print photos Cindy Jenkins took. Jenkins was going to attempt to download the digital files from her camera. If unsuccessful, Swank will find out the cost of scanning the photos if Jenkins is willing .

Status Report, assessments and estimates for 2 historic buildings/window film

Maggiore reported that the appraisals and estimates for the exterior work on the stone building and Town Hall have not yet been received and the Code Enforcement Officer is on medical leave. Swank asked whether the Energy Committee when it did its appraisal had made recommendations about the windows; she had learned that the UCC Church had added UV filter film to its windows at a cost of about \$10/square foot which it hoped would reduce energy costs as well as reduce UV radiation. The glare in the room and sunlight "leaking" around the venetian blinds is both annoying and harmful to the historical exhibits.

The Commission reserves the right to address any item which may legally come before it at the meeting.

6. Next Meeting Date & Time. Thursday, Mar 17 at 9:30am.

7. Adjournment. 11:56am

Cynthia G. Swank
Recording Secretary