

Approved at
21 Apr 2016 meeting



17 March 2016
Heritage Commission Conference Room
237 Atlantic Avenue

Present:

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

Alternates: Carolyn Brooks, Jeff Hillier, Nancy Monaghan

Absent: Vicki Jones

1. The meeting was properly posted; the Chair called it to order at 9:31 am.
2. Treasurer's Report. Currivan presented the report which she had sent electronically the night before. Current balance in the operating fund is \$950; Heritage Fund has \$5,100.92, having earned 65 cents in interest. In addition, \$6426.66 remains of the NH Council on the Arts grant for the conservation of the Megaethoscope prints. Swank asked about the number appearing as a negative. Maggiore checked with Ryan Cornwell during the meeting and he explained that it is intended to show that those funds are not available to the Town or Commission for any purpose other than the grant. The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously (moved by Robie; seconded by Cuetara). The Treasurer will ask Cornwell to make sure the NH Arts Council grant is described as for the Megaethoscope prints or slides. It is not for the Megaethoscope itself.
3. Approval of Minutes. The 2/18/16 minutes were approved unanimously (moved by Robie, seconded by Cuetara).
4. Old Business
Planning Board Handbook [moved up from New Business as Monaghan had to leave at 10:40am]. Swank reported that Chris Northrop, NH Department of Energy and Planning, had posted a message on the Plan-link list announcing the availability of a revised Planning Board Handbook. When she looked at the section "working with other boards and organizations", she discovered that there was no mention of Heritage or Historic District Commissions. She sent Northrop a message and he responded that it was a very good point, that they would look into it for the next edition this Fall, and asked for suggestions.

Swank had not yet responded to Northrop and also wished suggestions in addition to directing him to the NH Division of Historical Resources and NH Preservation Alliance.

A widespread discussion ensued with the following action items: Monaghan will arrange a meeting with the Planning Board, perhaps the Chair and Vice Chair with the Chair and a second Heritage Commission member; Maggiore will see how best to inform all boards of the NH Municipal Association's webinars and workshops and whether a training session might be held for new members of boards or any board member wishing to attend; Swank will respond to Northrop.

Old Business

Town Campus Facilities. Maggiore reviewed results and noted that efforts relating to Route 1 continue as does investigating financing possibilities.

NH Council on the Arts Grant. Nothing to report

FEMA/DHR Disaster Grant. Quarterly report has been sent to Division of Historical Resources.

275th Town Anniversary. Kane may be relocating and declined. Swank mentioned that Susan Grant had a couple of suggestions; Maggiore will contact her.

HC/HDC Date, location, speaker/program/committee. Etela reported that Jones had followed up with one of the owners of Throwback Brewery; and that she was willing to follow up with the Rye Heritage Commission. Any action has been postponed until the April meeting when Jones will be available.

Megaletoscope restoration, funding. Conservator Peter Sawyer picked up the Megaletoscope and one of the slides yesterday. His insurance will cover both. Etela has Sawyer's receipt. Restoration is expected to take three months. He waived any down payment.

Street Sign Subcommittee. Maggiore spoke with the Fire Chief. Any street sign effort is linked to E911. The prospect of Heritage Commission involvement was tabled.

Barn Survey - Eagle Scout project. Etela and Swank met with Eagle Scout candidate Jay Idell, his father and scout master. He expects to start by the end of March. Etela alerted Chief Maddocks to the project and that the Scout would be contacting him for letters after providing the names of the scouts and adult drivers, and license numbers of the cars. Hillier suggested that the cars have a placard saying Eagle Scout Barn Survey and the Troop number. Swank will convey that suggestion to the Scout. Etela mentioned that Rockingham Planning Commission circuit rider Jenn Rowden had indicated that once the barn coordinates are provided, they can be added as an overlay to the historic resources map the RPC prepared last year.

Status Report, Assessments & Estimates / Historic Town-owned Buildings. Etela saw Steve Bedard at the Barn and Old House Expo. She suggested that Town Administrator

Apple should reconnect with Bedard to make sure he is aware that the Town Hall assessment and estimate includes the siding, not just the clock tower. Maggiore indicated that there is no proposal for the original Library building from the mason. Maggiore will follow up on both.

Rails to Trails update. Cuetara indicated that negotiations are continuing and that there will be a meeting later this month.

[Monaghan left at 10:40 am]

Etela asked Hillier and Cuetara to send a brief summary after each meeting to Etela for the benefit of the Heritage Commission and for Maggiore to convey to the Planning Board.

5. New Business

HC Nominations. Member Swank and Alternate Members Hillier, Jones, and Monaghan all indicated that they were willing to continue on the Commission. Currivan moved, Cuetara seconded that the slate be approved; unanimously approved.

There was some discussion about members and alternates according to the RSAs. Etela also read the section in the Commission's by-laws about attendance.

Offer of computer, scanner by Mike Shorland. Shorland is disposing of a computer and scanner or all in one and offered them to the Heritage Commission. Etela asked whether space in the Town Offices conference room might be made available for the equipment. Maggiore will find out; he also noted that such a gift, if valued under \$500, does not need Select Board approval.

Etela mentioned that on election night Kendall Chevalier had suggested to her that the Heritage Commission should take over the cemeteries. He also thought the Page cemetery was still private, not town-owned property. Etela had researched that cemetery and is sure it is town-owned. She also reviewed the cemetery trustees RSAs which indicate any cemetery abandoned for twenty years or longer is town property once a public notice is done. She noted that the cemetery in question had received some town care in the past and at present a scout project is underway sponsored by the cemetery trustees. Maggiore will reach out to Chevalier to learn why he was making such a suggestion that seems counter to the RSAs.

6. Next Meeting Date & Time. Thursday, April 21st at 9:30am.

7. Adjournment. 11:14 am

Cynthia G. Swank
Recording Secretary