

Approved at
19 May 2016 meeting



21 April 2016
Heritage Commission Conference Room
237 Atlantic Avenue

Present:

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

Alternates: Carolyn Brooks, Vicki Jones, Nancy Monaghan
Absent: Jeff Hillier, Jane Robie

Also present: Cindy Jenkins, Chair, Agricultural Commission.

1. The meeting was properly posted. Called to Order at 9:34am. Monaghan to vote for Robie.

2. Organizational meeting. Election of Officers.

Maggiore nominated the existing officers to continue to serve: Donna Etela, Chair, Jane Currivan, Treasurer; Cynthia Swank, Secretary. Members voted unanimously in favor..

Etela read the Preamble to the Code of Ethics..

3. Treasurer's Report. Report and monthly statements were sent to members electronically, The reports were accepted as prepared.

4. Approval of Minutes.

March 17, 2016 Heritage Commission minutes.. Etela noted that Maggiore, not Currivan, contacted Ryan Cornwell during the meeting for clarification. The minutes as corrected were approved unanimously.

March 23, 2016 Demolition Review Committee minutes. Members of the committee approved the minutes. as prepared.

5. Old Business

HC/HDC Date, location, speaker/program/committee. [Moved up.] Jones has had further conversations with Throwback Brewery. It has the space and equipment for

presentations; and would be available on Wednesdays through Sundays for such a meeting. The Brewery needs three months' notice. A fallback may be Dale Farm.

Jones will put together a list of regional HC and HDC members. It was suggested that Betty Moore of Hampton Historical Society be asked. The HC will need to decide upon venue and date at next month's meeting.

Town Campus Facilities/Next steps. Maggiore indicated that the Select Board at its goal-setting session outlined three tracks: Miller will concentrate on seeking property on Route 1 and financing; Stanton on renovations onsite; and Maggiore on new construction. There are many variations. He anticipates the tracks will come together quickly before budget season begins.

NH Council on the Arts Grant. Swank reported that the Megalethoscope prints will be ready in a couple of weeks.

FEMA/DHR Disaster Grant. The quarterly report has been submitted.

Brian Page informed Jones that work on an update to the Town's disaster mitigation plan will begin in June and that he would talk with the Select Board about adding a Heritage Commission member. Etela suggested Hillier who attended the regional natural disaster meeting, and he has agreed. Maggiore will add to the Select Board meeting agenda.

275th Town Anniversary. Jones, as President of the Historical Society, will invite organizations to attend a meeting to plan and coordinate events.

[Jones left at 10:06am]

Megalethoscope restoration, funding. Etela visited Peter Sawyer. The Megalethoscope is finished. Instead of a stand, Sawyer will build cradles of the appropriate wood or grain-stained. Sawyer suggested a folding table be purchased so that the Megalethoscope can be easily transported and set up for the viewing of the images. The total cost will be less than originally estimated and Etela hopes she can obtain private funding.

There are two issues for the town: adequate and safe storage of the equipment and prints; and insurance coverage while in storage and when being transported. Cuetara will ask a friend in the business of moving fine art. Maggiore will ask Apple about storage, travel when done by board members, and town insurance.

Maggiore noted on a related matter that he was told one set of the original hands of the Town Hall clock were so badly damaged that they were discarded. There was no discussion about the remaining three sets, now in the Historical Society's storage cage in Town Offices.

Barn Survey - Eagle Scout project. Swank emailed Jay Idell earlier in the week and learned that he had done a trial run last weekend and expected the entire group to get

started this coming weekend. The delay means that some of the photo-taking may have to wait until Fall when the leaves are off the trees.

Etela attended a New Hampshire Preservation Alliance barn survey workshop and tour. She indicated that other attendees were envious of the North Hampton HC's scout project, especially obtaining GPS coordinates.

Cindy Jenkins noted that Joan Ganotis of the Agricultural Commission had also attended the NHPA event. The Agricultural Commission may wish to adapt the Division of Historical Resources barn survey for those barns of interest. Ganotis had indicated that individuals from some other towns had been able to complete surveying a barn within two hours.

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

Maggiore had nothing to report for either building. Swank suggested that the Heritage Commission be given copies of the assessments to document the two buildings.

Planning Board Communications. Monaghan reported on the April 6 meeting of Etela and Swank with Tim Harned and her. Monaghan has drafted a letter for Harned to send to the chairs of all land use boards suggesting a public meeting. The chair and vice chair of each would be at the table but all members would be invited to attend. The purpose is to exchange information about the goals and activities of each board.

Rails to Trails update. Cuetara indicated that the next regional meeting is scheduled for next week; he sent the notice to Etela who in turn distributed it to all members.

Action Items. Cemetery gate and tombstone cleaning. The Eagle Scout project is the responsibility of the Cemetery trustees although the project was suggested by Etela when asked. She has provided the scout with the name of an ironworker for the gate and passed along the Heritage Commission's concern about the cleaning of tombstones without the proper knowledge and supervision. The Town Administrator, Cemetery trustee George Chauncey, and Paul Cuetara have all been copied.

Maggiore confirmed that the cemeteries are the responsibility of the cemetery trustees including those graveyards which are now "inactive". Jenkins mentioned she could not find information online that would be helpful to cemetery lot owners such as what plantings are permitted. A broader discussion about the posting of agenda and minutes by the trustees and other boards ensued, and the confusion about the procedures for the paper and electronic documents. Maggiore will follow up. Education of boards, including the availability of workshop and webinars, is one of the goals for this year.

5. New Business

Demo Review -- 203 Post Rd. Etela reported that Demo Review Committee met, gave its approval for issuing the demolition application, and submitted that information to Kevin Kelley, the Code Enforcement Officer. Richard A. Batchelder intends to dismantle the barn, move the components to his property on Winnicutt Road, and reconstruct barn in the next few years.

A discussion ensued about demolition of barns and how the Town might alert potential buyers in town. Suggestions included adding links on the Heritage Commission and Agricultural Commission's webpages, and alerting the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance. The Agricultural Commissions have their own listserv but it is only available to members. Saving barns might be a topic at the next HC/HDC regional meeting .

[Currivan left 11:25 am]

Barn Easements. There was one application but the Assessor was not present and procedures broke down. Maggiore is aware of the problem. Instead of the "helpful hints" given in the NH Preservation Alliance document on the Heritage Commission's webpage, the Town may need to state "Required information" or "Necessary Steps".

[Maggiore left at 11:30]

The owner of the Governor Dale farm is considering a farmer's market. Jenkins has forwarded it to her members. Other possibilities may be Dearborn Park or the bandstand/Common.

6. Next Meeting Date & Time. Thursday, May 19 at 9:30am.

7. Adjournment. 11:37 am

Cynthia G. Swank
Recording Secretary