

Approved at 19 Oct 2017
meeting



20 Sep 2017
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 (arrived 10:40 am), Vicki Jones, Nancy Monaghan

1. Call to Order at 9:32am.

2. Treasurer's Report covering the months of July and August. \$920.80 was transferred to the Heritage Fund from the unexpended funds in the previous FY. The balance as of August 31 is \$5535.04; an additional \$1000 is in the FY 2018 operating budget. The Treasurer knows of no forthcoming expense. The report was approved as prepared. (Robie moved, Maggiore seconded)

3. Approval of Minutes. August 17, 2017 minutes were approved as prepared. (Robie moved, Currivan seconded). August 25, 2017 work session minutes were approved as prepared (Currivan moved, Robie seconded).

4. Old Business. [Moved up.] **DOT Drake Hill Bridge.** Maggiore and Etela attended a NH DOT meeting on 9/14 in Concord. Most of the Heritage Commission's mitigation requests were approved; the one for a pocket park was not because the rail line land is not owned by the State. The development of a color brochure and salvage of a portion of the concrete railing are part of the mitigation.

The monument on the Drake Farm is in the right of way and will have to be moved. The DOT is now in consultation with the owner. The State intends to take part of another owner's property to change the road east of Lafayette. The State would give a portion of the resulting triangle to the Town but retain the center of the triangle. Who would maintain the triangle was not clear. Wetlands are also involved in the project.

The State will hold a public hearing in the late Fall in North Hampton.

FEMA Grant update. Mausolf continues her work. She asked about the Town boundary markers and Maggiore will provide images. Etela has begun checking Mausolf's list of historic resources with the Commission's list based on Vision Appraisal's date of main structure on a property. She will provide feedback to Mausolf about any discrepancies or notable omissions.

275th Town Anniversary. Jones reported that all is going well. Tickets for the harvest dinner are available at the Town Clerk's Office. There are only 30 tickets left. Sign-ups for the trolley tours are at Town Hall during the Library's hours there. They, too, are filling fast.

Town Hall. Maggiore contacted Andrew Cushing at the NH Preservation Alliance who provided the names of two individuals who might do the assessment: Aaron Sturgis of Preservation Timber Framing, and another person who has worked at Strawberry Banke. Maggiore sent info about Town Hall to both. Each will meet with Paul Apple and/or John Hubbard. Once the Town knows what needs to be done and when, it can develop a scope of work and get bids; and will have a plan that can be presented to the Capital Improvement Committee next year so that all know what work over the next six years may be necessary.

Jones mentioned that the NHPA offers small planning grants of under \$3000 that may be appropriate for this undertaking. She reminded members that the LCHIP [Land and Community Heritage Investment Program] process begins next May 1st.

HC Webpages. The revamping of the Commission's webpage is now about complete thanks to Jones and Jan Facella. Swank asked if the Town's IT vendor had been asked about the Commission's larger files now on OneDrive. Maggiore will follow up with the Summer interns.

5. New Business. **Request from Rick Milner.** Milner, the Planning/Zoning Administrator, had passed along to the Commission a copy of an application to the Zoning Board, thinking that we might wish to speak at the hearing. The consensus was that the Commission has no standing on the question and the issues do not fall under the purview of our responsibilities.. Etela will let Milner know.

Potential Demo Review. The Code Enforcement Officer has informed the Chair that a building that may be considered an historic structure has been condemned.

Request for National Register Information. The new owner of an Atlantic Avenue property contacted the Chair for information about the National Register process. The owner has been put in touch with Lisa Mausolf and with Peter Michaud, Division of Historic Resources. There is a cemetery on the property that is in poor condition and the owner wished to learn what she might do.

[Hillier arrives] The question of the many cemeteries in town, some owned by the Town and others on private property, resulted in a long discussion. There was general agreement that the Heritage Commission or Historical Society do a public program in the Spring on cemeteries. Possible sources for outside presenters are: NH Cemetery Association, NH State Vital Records Administration (Steve Wurtz), and Division of Historic Resources. The Historical Society will discuss at its next meeting. It is hoped that Heritage Commission and Conservation Commission members, Cemetery Trustees, realtors, as well as the public would attend. Kendall Chevalier had at one time suggested to the Chair that the Heritage Commission should assume responsibility for inactive cemeteries.

Walking Tour Ideas. Swank had come across information about walking tours some libraries offer and thought a collaborative effort with other entities in town might produce a regular series of walking tours. Conservation Commission, Heritage Commission, and Historical Society are obvious participants but perhaps also certain businesses in town and the School. Susannah Clark may be asked to do a cemetery tour. Further discussion will take place at next month's meeting.

6. Next Meeting Date & Time. Thursday, October 19, 2017

7. Adjournment . 11:02am

Cynthia G. Swank
Recording Secretary