

Draft

North Hampton Heritage Commission

17 Jan 2019

Heritage Commission Conference Room
237 Atlantic Avenue

Present:

Paul Cuetara
Donna Etela, Chair

Jane Robie
Cynthia Swank

Alternates: Jeff Hillier, Nancy Monaghan, Carol Seely

Absent: Jane Currivan, Jim Maggiore, Vicki Jones,

1. Call to Order at 9:30am; designation of voting - Monaghan to vote for Currivan.
2. Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer submitted it in advance. As of December 31, the Heritage Fund totals \$6534.27 and \$1000 remains in the operating budget as the request to pay the annual membership dues to New Hampshire Preservation Alliance had not been charged yet. Currivan indicated that she would check with Finance. Approval of report deferred until next meeting.
3. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of November 15, 2018 were approved as prepared. (Monaghan moved, Robie seconded).
4. Old Business
Town Hall RFP. Etela attended a recent Select Board meeting, and learned that the Town Administrator is now about to contact Schnitzler to learn if he would be willing to do the work in segments.

Etela also noted that nothing has been done about the cracks in the skim coat on the interior wall of Town Hall. [Seely arrives at 9:34] The cracks have increased and pieces have fallen off. Etela has notified the Town Administrator and SB chair Maggiore. Hillier suggested and will draft a letter to the Select Board, mentioning Schnitzler first and urging action on the interior wall.

Process for HC consultation on Town owned historic buildings. Deferred until Maggiore present. The barn easement process also will be discussed at that time.

Certified Local Government Sub-Committee meeting. Etela reported that Jones is trying to arrange the next meeting to include as many as three of the Division of Historical Resources staff (Amy Dixon, Grants Coordinator; Megan Rupnik, State Survey Coordinator;

and Brandee Loughlin, National Register and Preservation Tax Incentives) as well as Maggiore.

Etela approached Jane Boesch, UCC Church historian, about the possibility of the church applying for the National Register.

Economic Development Committee Update. Monaghan reported that there was an EDC meeting last night. The Committee did not vote on the report to the Select Board so it likely will not be final until February. She will forward the draft to the Chair for distribution; and she encouraged members to watch the proceedings to get a sense of the gulf that seems to exist among some members. She indicated that the sewer issue continues to occupy time. Swank asked about the establishment of the committee, its charge, membership and budget.

Action Items. Cuetara suggested checking with Jones about the person who did the Town Hall windows. Swank will check NH Preservation Alliance website for the name.

Update Rail Trail. Hillier reported that at the Select Board meeting, Miller declined to sign the agreement between the state and the towns unless it is clear what the state is doing. Miller is to list his specific concerns. Scott Bogle who is the lead on the Rockingham Planning Board was attending the Rye Select Board meeting and not available to answer questions. All members of the North Hampton Select Board are in favor of the Rail Trail.

5. New Business

Centennial Hall. At the last meeting, the Chair announced that Centennial Hall had received a \$200k grant from Land and Community Heritage Investment Program [LCHIP] to restore the second floor of Centennial Hall so that it can be used by the public. The grant requires a 1:1 match. The Friends of Centennial Hall have a campaign called "Open the Ballroom" project to which Etela has donated and urged others to do so. There also will be a petition warrant article for \$50k on the ballot.

Etela noted that during the tour of Centennial Hall staff of LCHIP asked several times about financial support from the town. Etela proposed that the Heritage Commission donate \$1000 from the Heritage Fund to assist with the match. There was some discussion discussing the RSAs and by-laws pertaining to the Heritage Commission, the importance of Centennial Hall as an historical resource in the community, and possible political flak directed at the Commission.

Robie moved that the Commission contribute \$1000 to the matching fund for the Friends of Centennial Hall Open the Ballroom project from the Heritage Fund as permitted by the by-laws and RSA 674:44-b. Swank seconded. Unanimous affirmative vote.

216 Atlantic Ave. The Chair noted that there was a request for information about 216 Atlantic Avenue. In addition to the Town's warrant article to purchase the property for \$375k, there is a citizens petition warrant to give the same amount of money to the Library.

There already was a Town warrant to add \$100k to the fund for the Library building expansion.

Historical Society website. In Jones' absence, Swank related the Historical Society's website effort, and that the watercolor now on the Heritage Commission's webpage on the Town website, cited as courtesy of the Historical Society, is going to be the image on the home page of the Historical Society's website. Swank suggested that the Heritage Commission replace the watercolor image with the cover of the Historic Resources Survey.

She also noted that the Heritage Commission has numerous images that seem to be beyond the capacity of the Town website, notably the historic resources images and the Eagle Scout barn images linked to a spreadsheet. She suggested that the Heritage Commission consider having such images it has created in the course of its activities placed on the Historical Society website. They would need to be clearly identified as Heritage Commission images. Members concurred that the Historical Society be asked to learn from its web designer whether such an addition is feasible and at what cost to the Commission.

Hillier mentioned he was reading a book by local author Thomas Clarie, *Subs, Guns, Honor; Lt. W.H. Jaques of Little Boar's Head, NH*, that includes a pen and ink drawing of the North Hampton Depot with a sign "Rye Beach". Conclusion was that it may relate to the trolley one would take to reach Rye as that town did not have a railroad station.

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

Adjourned. 10:54am

Cynthia G. Swank
Recording Secretary