



North Hampton
Heritage
Commission

18 April 2024
Mary Herbert Conference Room
Town Offices
237A Atlantic Avenue

Present:

Donna Etela, chair
Susan McCullom-Barry
Carol Seely
Cynthia Swank

Alternates: Jennifer Kotzen, Planning Board rep; Jane Robie

Absent: Jim Maggiore, John Sillay

Also present: Larry Miller

1. **Call to Order:** 9:30AM. Robie to vote for Sillay

2. **Election of Officers:** Etela elected Chair unanimously [Robie nominated, McCullom-Barry seconded]. Swank elected Secretary [Seely, McCullom-Barry]; and Seely elected Treasurer [Swank, Robie]. Approved unanimously.

Appointment of New Member. Sillay had agreed to move from Alternate to Member at the end of the previous meeting. At this meeting he was approved as a Member [Seely, Robie].

Appointment of new Alternate Member. Chair introduced Larry Miller as a new Alternate; he was approved unanimously [Swank, Robie]. Chair asked Miller to send note to Select Board in time for Monday's SB meeting.

4. Treasurer's Report: Seely reported that the only change in the Commission's Heritage Fund was a \$52.12 credit for interest in the month of March. It now amounts to \$20,584.94. The Commission's operating budget of \$1000 remains intact for a total of \$21,584.94 available. The report was approved unanimously. [Robie, McCullom-Barry]

4. Approval of Minutes: March 21, 2024 minutes were approved as prepared. [Seely, McCullom-Barry]

5. Old Business

Past Perfect/Web site update. Swank had hoped to get the Eagle Scout barn survey effort (the spreadsheet and powerpoint presentation) into PastPerfect. The simplest way was to put it in attachments section, and provide public access. She learned it impractical because individual viewers may have their browsers set to download rather than open on their browser screen. She contacted PastPerfect and is still experimenting.

Swank asked for someone to replace former member Jones as a person with access to and the ability to make changes in the application. Seely volunteered; the two will get together for a brief tutorial.

Barn Easements. On April 17th members, individually or in groups of two, had visited two barns up for renewal of their preservation barn easements at 79 South Road and 38 Hobbs Road. All approved recommending and continuing the 75% reduction for 79 South Road [Etela, Robie]; and recommending and continuing the 50% reduction for 38 Hobbs Road. [Etela, Seely]

There was some discussion of the criteria as described in RSA79-E:

(a) There is scenic enjoyment of the structure by the general public from a public way or from public waters.

(b) The structure is historically important on a local, regional, state, or national level, either independently or within an historic district.

(c) The structure's physical or aesthetic features contribute to the historic or cultural integrity of a property listed on or determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, state register of historic places, or locally designated historic district

A Public Hearing on the renewal applications is part of next Monday's SB meeting (April 22 at 7pm) and the Chair invited all to attend.

Barn Survey. Etela reported that Maggiore had asked Assessor Scott Marsh if it possible to extract barn information from the Vision database. Marsh indicated that he can do it but not easily. The consensus was that Etela ask Maggiore to request Marsh to do so. She noted it will not include a date of construction or perhaps appurtenances such as silos or other agricultural structures.

McCullom-Barry indicated she had gone through the material Swank had provided but was not sure how to proceed as extremely difficult to negotiate a drive-by, taking identifying information and photographs. Kotzen offered to accompany her on a trial effort, including picture-taking.

Etela explained the value of the information for the Commission's role in reviewing demo applications and preservation barn easement applications.

Swank noted that the Chair of the Moultonborough Heritage Commission had responded to her query that in their town and also in Center Harbor the Heritage Commissions had conducted volunteer barn surveys, using the NH Division of Historical Resources form. She wondered if the Agricultural Commission would be interested in assisting in the effort. She noted that the notable barn on 79 South Road had not been included by either the Historical Society or Ag Commission in their survey efforts.

Kotzen asked how we publicize the availability of preservation barn easements in addition to the Friday Folder announcement two or three months in advance of the application deadline.

Megaethoscope Image Progress. Swank reported that Photosmith expects to get the three canvasprints back from the framer by the end of the week. One of the prints when enlarged was so dark and blurry that Photosmith recommended selecting a different one; the one that had been the fourth choice of the group had then been printed. Swank will provide Seely with the receipt as soon as she picks up and pays for the canvasprints.

Action Items. Swank noted that it seems unlikely Public Safety will be open to any interior images being made public via the Town website but that Maggiore should be asked to get photos that can be maintained by the Heritage Commission as a record.

6. New Business

T-Mobile Grant Letter Request. Pat Vorkink, a board member of Centennial Hall, had requested the Chair send a supporting letter for a \$40,000 grant request to be used for the work needed to balance the building's heating system. Etela had written such a letter in time for the application deadline. In it she noted our meeting in the basement of Centennial Hall where it was extremely hot while upstairs cold. Swank indicated that she had also sent a requested letter based on advice given for archival materials owned by Centennial Hall.

Zoom Meeting with NHDOT Cultural Resources 4/11/2024. Etela explained Section 106 of the National Preservation Act and the Commission's role. Nearly five years ago the Commission had signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the NH Department of Transportation relating to Drake's Bridge on Route 1. It expires this July and the NH DOT had called a meeting to discuss renewal and possible changes to the MOA.

We have yet to receive the minutes being prepared by NH DOT. Etela, Robie, Sillay and Swank had attended the Zoom meeting. Lisa Mausolf, our consultant for the project, was also at the Zoom meeting.

There are four stipulations, three of which pertain to the Commission and North Hampton, in the current MOA and the meeting purpose was to review and possibly amend. (Note: added description provided by Secty from the original MOA.)

- 1) Archival documentation. Document prepared by CFR 61 qualified architectural historian to Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) standards.
- 2) Brochure/booklet no more than 30 pages about the Eastern Railroad and Drake Bridge by a qualified architectural historian and developed in collaboration w/ Commission/Historical Society with it placed on Town website and 75 print copies available to Town.

- 3) 10-12 foot section of concrete bridge rail for use by Commission in park setting.

The chair will invite Lisa Mausolf to attend the Commission's May or June meetings. The next meeting with the NH DOT is July 11th.

The one stipulation that seemed of concern to the NH DOT is the creation of a HAER document, primarily the National Park Service requirement of large format photographs. They pointed out that Preservation Services, Inc. had prepared a NH inventory with photos. Etela noted that we had learned that HAER forms are kept by and digital versions made available worldwide by the Library of Congress. Sillay mentioned in the Zoom meeting that he had worked at the Library of Congress.

There was an extended discussion about the bridge rail and where it would be placed and the pluses and minuses for the two most likely/only areas: 1) near the original bridge on either private land or on land adjacent to Route 1 that the Town will acquire when North Road is altered; and 2) adjacent to the Railtrail across from what is now Joe's Meat Shoppe and annex. Arguments for and against either choice were offered.

7. Next Meeting Date & Location. Thursday, May 16 at 9:30, Mary Herbert Room

8. Adjournment 11:12AM

Cynthia G. Swank
Recording Secretary