

North Hampton

Heritage
Commission

18 July 2019
Heritage Commission Conference Room
237 Atlantic Avenue

Present:

Paul Cuetara
Jane Currivan
Donna Etela, Chair

Jim Maggiore [at 9:43am]
Jane Robie
Cynthia Swank

Alternates: Vicki Jones, Jeff Hillier [at 9:48am], Nancy Monaghan, Carol Seely

1. Call to Order at 9:32am.
2. Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer report indicates the Heritage Fund balance as of 6/28/19 is \$4765.61 (increase only monthly interest of \$6.97). The Town has debited \$1809.35 -- \$809.35 represents the difference between the cost of printing the Town-Wide Historic Resources Survey and revenue generated from selling some of the copies at cost to the public. \$1000 represents the Commission's donation to Centennial Hall's matching grant effort, Open the Ballroom campaign.

The Town will deposit \$950 into the Fund, the unexpended portion of the Commission's FY2019 operating budget. The new FY2020 operating budget is \$1000. The report was approved (Robie moved, Currivan seconded).

3. Approval of Minutes. June 20, 2019. One typo – add the letter “t” in sentence joint Select Board / Little Boar's Head meeting. Minutes approved with that correction. (Currivan moved, Robie seconded).

4. Old Business

Pocket Park. [taken up after the CLG item]. Scott Bogle emailed after the June meeting that he had reached the NH DOT person and learned that the land adjacent to the S.A. Dow house is part of the sale between the State and PanAm. Some members were aware that the Dog Park Committee has proposed a dog park for that area; and Bogle indicated that it did not seem feasible because the Rail Trail must be accessible for horses and snowmobiles; and access, wetland and parking issues also exist.

All agreed that the Chair before signing the *Memorandum of Agreement among the Federal Highway Administration, NH Department of Transportation, the NH State Historic Preservation Officer and the North Hampton Heritage Commission* should make a presentation at the next Select Board meeting, and seek SB approval to accept the piece of railing from Drake's Bridge and other mitigation requests granted in the MOA. The consensus was to wait until a later Select Board meeting to propose the establishment of a Pocket Park Committee.

Certified Local Government Committee - Legal Opinion. [moved up]. Jones reported Town Attorney Stephen Bennett's response. There is nothing to be concerned about but he suggested informing Little Boar's Head Commissioners and LBH Heritage Commissioners of the effort, liaising with them and developing a memorandum of understanding. Bennett indicated (and Heritage Commission members had already agreed) that the Heritage Commission might partner with LBH Heritage Commission when a CLG grant-funded project is proposed within the Little Boar's Head District.

All agreed that having a meeting with the Commissioners and a liaison with the LBH Heritage Commission made sense. Jones will speak with Bob Southworth who is a Commissioner Emeritus, and Maggiore will speak with Commissioner Schoenberger or one of the others.

Economic Development Committee Update. Monaghan reported the new officers are Richard Luff, Chair, and Jeff Hillier, Vice Chair. The contract with the landscape architect has been signed; he will be at next meeting to outline next steps. The work will be based on what exists now in terms of the town's infrastructure and regulations. The next meeting may discuss the Hampton Chamber of Commerce's interest in having a regional economic development person to work for Seabrook, Hampton, and North Hampton.

Website for HC image Files RFP. Maggiore reported that the Portsmouth Computer Group was unresponsive despite several contact efforts. The Town Administrator eventually received a "not interested" response eventually without any explanation.

Jones reported that she had approached PCG for the Historical Society to see if the firm had any interest in developing a website and had not even received a "no, thank you" response. There will be follow-up with the Town Administrator about next steps.

Land Use Boards Summit-Conservation request. Etela had distributed the email from Lisa Wilson, chair of the Conservation Commission, seeking a supporting letter for that Commission's efforts to acquire a 604B grant to create a septic system database of North Hampton providing address, owner, and installation date, going back to 1986. The goal is to further septic system maintenance and education. Etela moved, Cuetara seconded a motion to that effect. Etela will send a letter to Jenn Rowden, Rockingham Planning Commission, with copies to the Conservation Commission and Select Board.

HC Section Master Plan. Jones will schedule for early September.

Action Items. Maggiore indicated that Division of Historical Resources has been unresponsive regarding providing free access to its new EMMIT database so that the Heritage Commission could verify its accuracy for North Hampton historic resources. He made two visits and sent an email. He has not received a response.

5. New Business

MOA Letter/Request to SB. Etela will do a presentation about the Drake's Bridge mitigation at next Monday's meeting. Maggiore will include a copy of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act that relates to projects funded, permitted, licensed or approved by a Federal agency for SB members' education about the role of the Heritage Commission in such federally funded projects. Members voted unanimously in favor of the Chair signing the *Memorandum of Agreement among the Federal Highway Administration, NH Department of Transportation, the NH State Historic Preservation Officer and the North Hampton Heritage Commission* after the SB approves the Commission accepting the gifts outlined in the MOA. (Robie moved, Cuetara seconded).

Additional New business.

Etela received an email on Tuesday 7/16/19 from Altus Engineering regarding 46 Chapel Road. A portion of a proposed driveway is over wetlands. As the property had been part of the Lamprey homestead on Atlantic Avenue, an identified historic resource, the Division of Historical Resources had to be informed and they, in turn, requested that the Heritage Commission indicate whether it had any comments; that it was purely voluntary whether the Commission wished to do so. There was some confusion because it evidently is a NH law regarding the Army Corps of Engineers and requiring DHR involvement.

[Seely left 10:37am; Monaghan left 10:50am]

The Commission voted unanimously (Robie moved, Currivan seconded) that the Chair respond to the DHR and to the engineering firm that the Commission found no reason to comment. Members also agreed that a copy of the letter should be given to Rick Milner, Planning/Zoning Administrator for the Town's building files. Jones will ask the DHR for the RSA citation. (Much time was spent looking for the RSA).

Paul Cuetara, long-time member of the Commission, announced his resignation. It was accepted with regret. Etela asked if he would be willing to continue as an Alternate Member. Cuetara accepted. He also will do what he can for the Rail Trail group.

Cuetara's long-time service to the Town – Town Moderator, Planning Board chair, Conservation Commission, interim Select Board member, Town Hall Committee chair among other myriad community activities – was noted and lauded by all.

The Chair per RSA 673:12 appointed Alternate Member Hillier as Commission member.

6. Next Meeting Date & Time. 8/15/19 at 9:30am.

7. Adjournment 11:18am.

Cynthia G. Swank
Recording Secretary