

Approved as prepared
at 20 Feb 2020 meeting



16 Jan 2020
Heritage Commission Conference Room
237 Atlantic Avenue

Present:

Jane Currivan
Donna Etela, Chair
Jeff Hillier

Jane Robie
Cynthia Swank

Alternates: Vicki Jones, Nancy Monaghan, Carol Seely

Absent: Paul Cuetara, Jim Maggiore

1. Call to Order at 9:36am.

2. Treasurer's Report. Seely distributed in advance the financial reports for November and December. As of the end of December, the Commission has \$5,745.84 in the Heritage Fund; and \$1000 in its budget line.

The Commission has not yet received a renewal bill from the NH Preservation Alliance. Seely will contact the organization to obtain the Barn Preservation book that is available to the Heritage Commission *gratis* and will inform them that we wish to renew our membership of \$50. The report was approved [Robie moved, Currivan seconded].

3. Approval of Minutes. The November 21, 2019 minutes were approved as prepared. [Robie moved, Hillier seconded].

4. Old Business

Certified Local Government Committee [CLG]/ Master Plan [MP] update. Jones has put the revision of the Master Plan on pause until the Commission decides how it wishes to proceed with the CLG initiative. Swank had responded to Jones' outline of the MP; Robie indicated that she had no suggestions for the outline.

For the CLG, the first step is to gain approval from the Select Board [SB] for an historic district comprising Town Hall and the original Library, preferably before the SB does its goal-setting for FY2021; then the Commission will aim to go through the Planning Board

process before Fall 2020. The consensus was that a small group doing the work would be the most effective method. It was decided to set up the CLG sub-committee at next month's meeting, and then choose a date in March for that sub-committee's first meeting.

The Chair asked members to think of potential projects for which CLG grant funds might be requested – they might serve as examples of how grant funds available to a CLG could be used. Etela has not yet contacted Lisa Mausolf about writing up the technical aspects of the boundaries. Etela has asked Centennial Hall if there might be interest in becoming an historic district in case the Town does not want to use any town-owned facilities for the district.

The MS4, Section 106 review item listed below in the agenda was also discussed. Hillier had several communications with the Library Chair, Susan Leonardi, as well as others but was not able to obtain any documentation to answer the Commission's questions regarding run-off and the potential impact of an expanded Library building upon the original Library (stone) building.

Monaghan stated that the Planning/Zoning Administrator should receive the site plan for an expanded Library next week in time for the Planning Board's February meeting. She also will follow up with a comment a member had heard suggesting that the SB thinks the Town may not be in complete compliance with its MS4. [Note: The Chair informed all members later that Monaghan verified with DPW that the town was in compliance].

Economic Development Committee [EDC] Update. Monaghan reported that the consultant had requested an extension and will be presenting the plan for a portion of Route 1 at the EDC's February meeting on 2/5/20. The EDC spent some time discussing the Hampton Chamber of Commerce's President's ideas for a regional planning initiative (Rye, North Hampton, Hampton, Hampton Falls, Seabrook) with initial funding *via* a grant. The Chamber president is working with the North Hampton Business Association. Town agreement would be necessary.

Etela noted that the NH Division of Historical Resources has an online questionnaire to assist it in drafting its five year preservation plan. She urged everyone to complete the questionnaire, and keep it in mind while we are preparing our updated Master Plan chapter.

Website for HC image Files/Status. Swank had provided information and price of Proficio Elements, a cloud-based collections management app, to Maggiore and to Kaenrath; there has been no response yet. She will follow up.

MS4, Section 106 Review. Covered in CLG item above.

Action Items. None that have not been covered.

5. New Business

Jeff Hillier Trustee follow up. Also discussed in the MS4 item above.

[Currivan left 10:30am]

Centennial Hall. The Chair reported that there was a rumor someone on the Heritage Commission opposed the Centennial Hall warrant article. There is no basis in fact and it may be someone being malicious.

Barn Easements. Swank will put a notice in the Friday Folder about the April 15th deadline for barn preservation easement applications. Etela noted that there had been no applications last year.

Other business.

Swank brought up the following based upon her attendance for a portion of two different SB meetings.

- 1) There is a Cemetery warrant article of \$17,200 for removal of trees along the cemetery stone wall. She reported that there was little discussion at the meeting other than the utility company possible taking down some trees. In addition to the wall, she thinks the iron gates also need work. She noted the presence of many old gravestones in the midst of trees and tree roots. Depending upon the number of trees that are removed, the view from the road and across the road will be quite different. In some other towns, removal of cemetery trees has been controversial. She will try to follow-up.
- 2) A Laserfiche representative in Georgia gave an online demo of the cloud-based document management application, and reseller Ricoh's representatives were in attendance to further discuss the product. As Swank and an Ag Commission member were the only public present, the two SB members present, Maggiore and Miller, encouraged them to comment and ask questions. Swank asked about two Town work processes that involve the Heritage Commission: demolition application review and barn preservation easement application review and how they might be handled within Laserfiche. It was agreed that one or two Commission members would need access to the application for an effective workflow.

Next Meeting Date & Time. February 20, 2020 at 9:30am

Adjournment. 11:09am

Cynthia G. Swank
Recording Secretary