



## Heritage Commission

16 Jul 2020  
Mary Herbert Room  
233 Atlantic Avenue

Present:

Jane Currivan  
Donna Etela, Chair  
Jim Maggiore  
Cynthia Swank

Alternates: Nancy Monaghan, Carol Seely [arr. 9:35am]

Absent: Jeff Hillier, Vicki Jones, Jane Robie

1. Call to Order at 9:30am. Designation of Voting: Monaghan to vote for Jones; Seely for Hillier [after she arrived].

2. Treasurer's Report. The Commission by unanimous vote tabled the report until clarification regarding the transfer of the unexpended \$950 to the Commission's savings account. [moved by Etela, seconded Currivan]. After Seely arrived, she indicated that she had been unable to reach Ryan Cornwell yesterday and will ask that the transfer be made according to the RSA.

3. Approval of Minutes of May 21, 2020. The minutes as prepared were approved unanimously. [Currivan, Monaghan]

4. Old Business

**Master Plan update.** Jones had sent two documents in advance of the meeting: Summary of Heritage Commission Activities and Heritage Commission Master Plan Section.

In the Summary document is a section *Additional Historical Resources/Information available on Town website*. Etela suggested that some of the documents listed may have inaccurate or obsolete information that could confuse homeowners. A prolonged discussion ensued relating to historical research, errors that have been corrected, and the questionable continuing value of some documents. Etela's suggestion, agreed upon by consensus, was to add a simple disclaimer on the Heritage Commission webpage. It also

was noted that the Summary might be amended to reflect the date of the resource or to indicate that it has been superseded by newer documents.

Other changes to the Summary document include:

- reformat the grant-funded projects;
- re-word or omit Agricultural Commission from the bullet that lists both demolition review and barn survey efforts;
- add to National Register bullet “acted in advisory capacity to owners of these and other historic properties”
- re-word bullet *re* historical repairs on stone building and Town Hall to read “continue to consult with Town and Select Board on repairs to the Stone Building and Town Hall.”

Swank had made revisions to the Master Plan Section which she will send to Jones and the Master Plan sub-committee. The sub-committee will meet at a time and place to be determined.

**Economic Development Committee Update.** Monaghan indicated that the Committee will resume in September; there is a housekeeping meeting this evening.

**Website for HC image files progress.** Swank reported she is on her third method of adding photographs into the PastPerfect online database. The searching capability is tricky and her first tries, one with captions, the other as attachments, were not sufficient to meet the Commission’s and other users’ search requirements.

After an online review with PastPerfect support, she is now entering those photos that must include address and tax/map number as individual records within a collection. It involves numerous steps and is time-consuming but, once done, should work well for users.

**Town Hall Repairs/Tower Bid/Bell Inspection.** Maggiore recounted the damage to the building when a truck ripped down wires and ripped apart soffits and fascia on the southwest corner of Town Hall. The Town contacted Primex; it also contacted John Schnitzler who had just finished work on the building. Schnitzler will return to do the restoration. Hub has added piping underneath and the wires will now run underground.

Maggiore also reported that the Select Board approved copper roofing and going forward with A.W. Therrian to do the work. The Town may use thicker copper if the cost matches the other bid (\$1400). The bell will need to be lifted a couple of inches and all agreed that having a video made would be great. Maggiore will ask John Savastano. [Note: Town Administrator Tully showed up after the adjournment of the meeting and reported that a video is in the works using the TV station’s drone]. Monaghan asked if someone could write an article for the October *Community Newsletter* about the bell; Swank was volunteered.

Etela contacted Steve Bedard for possible people to go up and inspect and possibly clean and/or repair the bell if necessary. Maggiore will ask the person who worked on the clock; Seely will ask some makers of hand bells; and Swank will post an inquiry on the Massachusetts Historic Preservation listserv as it seems likely that there may be sources in the Boston area.

**Land Use Summit.** Monaghan indicated that when she asked initially the chairs of all five land use boards had preferred waiting until the summit could be held in person. Now that it seems unlikely to occur as soon as September, she will get Planning Board Chair Tim Harned's input as to whether he thinks it might be postponed until next year, or try to set up an in-person meeting consisting of one person who is willing to attend from each board, or some other scenario. Etela favored trying to do something this year.

#### **Action Items**

None that had not already been discussed.

#### 5. New Business

**National Trust for Historic Preservation Grant/Centennial Hall.** Swank re-did the supporting letter used for a similar grant application earlier this year, explaining that the full Commission was not meeting due to the pandemic. She signed on behalf of Chair and Secretary only.

**Letter for Conservation Commission.** Etela prepared a supporting letter and has not heard whether the Commission has received the grant intended for a trail in the Little River Conservancy.

**DOT North Hampton 24457.** There was a communication with the Town on June 18<sup>th</sup> which did not include the Heritage Commission regarding the North Road realignment and Drake Bridge project. Etela contacted the author that the Heritage Commission is a consulting party but has not received a response.

**Other new business.** Etela noted that the Kingston Heritage Commission had emailed Swank asking how to contact other Heritage Commissions to set up a regional meeting. At this stage, it would need to be from scratch and possibly a virtual meeting.

Currivan brought up that the Runnymede property is for sale. She will send the realtor's public documents to all. There appears to be the possibility of some limited division.

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

Adjournment. 10:40 am

Cynthia G. Swank  
Recording Secretary