



# Heritage Commission

Minutes

20 June 2019

Heritage Commission Conference Room  
237 Atlantic Avenue

Present:

Paul Cuetara  
Jane Currivan  
Donna Etela, Chair

Jim Maggiore  
Jane Robie  
Cynthia Swank

Alternates: Jeff Hillier, Vicki Jones, Carol Seely

Also present: Scott Bogle, Senior Transportation Planner, Rockingham Planning Commission

Absent: Nancy Monaghan

1. Call to Order at 9:30am.

2. Treasurer's Report. Seely met with the Finance Director Cornwell and communicated with the former Treasurer Currivan. Both were helpful. \$1000 will be taken out of the Heritage Fund for the Centennial Hall donation at the end of the fiscal year. Available funds in the operating budget and Heritage Fund total \$6517.99. The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously (Cuetara moved, Currivan seconded).

3. Approval of Minutes. May 16, 2019 minutes were approved as prepared (Robie moved, Cuetara seconded).

4. Old Business

**Pocket Park/Scott Bogle RPC.** [Item moved up]. The chair introduced Bogle; everyone introduced themselves.

Etela explained to Bogle the NH DOT's and Town's mitigation resulting from the NH DOT's impending replacement of the Drake Hill Bridge on Route 1. Mitigation includes the Town obtaining a section of the bridge railing, a plaque, and a booklet relating to the railroad and bridge prepared by a historic preservation consultant. Because the State's purchase of the railbed has not yet occurred, the NH DOT would not agree to creating a pocket park as part

of the mitigation. The Heritage Commission is proposing that a Pocket Park Group with representatives from various interested organizations be formed. It would be helpful to know what properties along the rail trail might be suitable for the bridge railing, an interpretative sign, and a bench.

Bogle said that he has not received an answer about what ancillary properties the State might purchase. It is his understanding that only the 66 foot wide right of way is likely. He is not sure there is any land south of the bridge before the depot; and he thought all small parcels have been sold off by the railroad. He will ask Patrick Herlihy again about ancillary parcels.

There was discussion about a possible location near Drake's Bridge and within the 66 foot right of way of the Rail Trail (the trail itself may only be 12 feet wide, leaving space in theory for a piece of railing, interpretative sign and bench). Bogle asked the location of the water tower in the vicinity of the Atlantic Avenue bridge. The Atlantic Avenue location seemed better in terms of security and access. There also are not the same wetland issues that exist near Drake's Bridge -- some report that it is wet 24/7/365. The Pocket Park Committee would need to interact with and get a signoff from the NH DOT, State Bureau of Rail and Transit.

Timing of the bridge replacement and the construction of the rail trail also was discussed. The timing for either is not clear. Bogle thought 2020-2021 likeliest for the Rail Trail and suggested the environmental review might take 12 months; the bridge replacement is scheduled for 2021-2022. It seemed unlikely to everyone that a Rail Trail could be open during the bridge construction.

[Bogle left at 10:12am]

**CLG [Certified Local Government] Committee - Legal Opinion.** Jones reported that there is no legal opinion yet; she will send a reminder to Kaenrath. Jones did communicate with Division of Historical Resources [DHR]; Nadine Peterson, from her perspective, did not think Little Boar's Head [LBH] was an issue.

Maggiore noted that there had been a join Select Board / LBH Commissioners meeting; and he had informed them of the project. They appreciated learning of it and had no further comment.

**Website for Commission's Image Files RFP.** Maggiore indicated the Town is waiting to hear from Portsmouth Computer Group; he will check again. Swank had sent info /draft RFP to Maggiore and Kaenrath in late April. The Select Board did not encumber funds for the project this week but the Town might find money from the general fund.

**Land Use Boards Summit-review.** Jones summarized the meeting and the two projects that each discussed: Agriculture Commission – local farmers' market at the Dale Farm, and planting of edible plants on town property. Conservation Commission - Little River monitoring, and septic; Heritage Commission – effort to obtain Certified Local Government

status and pocket park; Planning Board – zoning amendments and Master Plan. Zoning Board of Adjustment indicated that there had been little activity.

Further discussion of septic and airbnbs ensued. There may be a septic committee set up under the Conservation Commission and comprised of representatives from different boards. State Representative Maggiore, who was in the audience, indicated that the State Legislature has set up a study group *re* airbnbs.

**EDC Update.** In Monaghan's absence, Hillier and Maggiore provided some information. A consultant is being hired for about \$14,000 to plan a village center based upon current conditions, *i.e.* no sewer, existing wetland setbacks, and no change in the number of lanes/width of Route 1.

The inventory of property owners is almost complete. Only 10% of the owners live in North Hampton, suggesting interests of owners and residents may differ.

Both the EDC chair and vice chair have resigned (the Chair is moving). At the July meeting, a new chair and vice chair will be elected. There is one new representative of the North Hampton Business Association, Renee Locke, owner of Urban Farmhouse, and another must be chosen.

Action Items. None not already covered.

#### 5. New Business

**HC Section in Master Plan.** Etela had distributed instructions that the Rockingham Planning Commission circuit rider had drafted so that Master Plan chapters would be more uniform in format. She also reviewed the goals and recommendation and what we've accomplished.

Swank was added to the Certified Local Government sub-committee which also will begin work to update the historic resources chapter.

**Other new business.** Maggiore will visit DHR and ask whether the Heritage Commission can have free access to the DHR's online GIS [Geographic Information System] EMMIT [Enhanced Mapping and Management Tool] to review the North Hampton information in terms of accuracy. Etela had noticed that the map that was available for free did not show the correct location of a National Register property. A subscription costs \$100/year.

Maggiore noted that John Schnitzler was at Town Hall today so work may commence soon.

6. Next Meeting Date & Time. July 18th @ 9:30am.

7. Adjournment. 11:24am

Cynthia G. Swank  
Recording Secretary