

Approved as
prepared at
19 Sep 2019
meeting



15 August 2019
237 Atlantic Avenue
Heritage Commission Conference Room

Present:

Donna Etela, Chair
Jeff Hillier
Jim Maggiore

Jane Robie
Cynthia Swank

Alternates: Vicki Jones, Carol Seely

Also present: Dave Hodgdon, Portsmouth Computer Group; Town Administrator Bryan Kaenrath (arriving 9:56am)

Absent: Paul Cuetara, Jane Currivan, Nancy Monaghan

1. Call to Order, Designation of Voting. Meeting called to order at 9:33am. Jones to vote for Currivan; Seely will vote for Robie when she leaves at 10:30am.
2. Treasurer's Report. Total available is \$5720.64 in the Heritage Fund, and \$1000 in the operating budget. (Jones moved, Robie seconded)
3. Approval of Minutes. July 18, 2019. A typo was corrected (Rob, not Bob, Southworth; and honorific omitted). Minutes were approved as amended (Jones moved, Robie seconded).

4. Old Business

Before addressing the agenda items, the Chair noted she had sent Jenn Rowden of the Rockingham Planning Commission [RPC] a supporting letter for Conservation Commission's grant application

Memorandum of Agreement/Pocket Park. An RPC report shows the Drake Bridge replacement now scheduled, perhaps, for FY2020. There has been a delay relating to the National Environmental Protection Act. (The Chair's spouse, a Planning Board member, had received a copy. The Commission has not been informed).

John Hubbard, Public Works Director, prepared a letter assuring the NH DOT that the Town would move and store the piece of the railing. His letter was included with the signed MOA.

The Rail Trail has been approved by the State and PanAm. It should be ready for use in 2022. As Federal funds are involved, Commission members wondered whether the construction of the Rail Trail will include Section 106 mitigation and speculated that if so, the mitigation might include the Pocket Park and interpretative signs along the trail. Jones will ask a DHR staff member.

Certified Local Government Committee – LBH. Jones spoke with Rob Southworth and he suggested sending a description of what the Commission would like; he will obtain a person to act as liaison. Jones will prepare and send draft to Etela.

Economic Development Committee Update. Monaghan provided a report that Etela read. The consultant, Jeff Hyland, will be conducting listening sessions through the Fall and have a conceptual drawing for a “village center” in January. The consultant apparently was extending the drawing to include east on Atlantic to the School and west on Atlantic to Centennial Hall. The EDC had not discussed boundaries and both Monaghan and Hillier were surprised.

[Hodgdon and Kaenrath arrive 9:56am. See that discussion below. EDC item discussion resumed at 10:28am.]

Members thought Monaghan, as the Commission’s rep on the EDC, should make sure the consultant knows that the Town has historic village centers, including the Town Hall / depot area, and that the railroad corridor was deemed National Register eligible in the early 2000s.

Website for HC image Files Dave Hodgdon from PCG. Hodgdon described what PCG does for the Town. He indicated that the Town needs to contact its website vendor, CivicPlus, to learn what services and applications it offers and how the Commission’s needs might be met by CivicPlus.

Hodgdon agreed that whatever application might be used should be open source and include documentation for the API (application programming interface). He also suggested that the Commission members/ Town might do a “whiteboarding” session in light of the Town’s interest in a document management system as it seemed as if the Commission’s digital images would be part of a digital repository. The Town Administrator will contact CivicPlus.

[Hodgdon and Kaenrath left 10:24am]

Robie left 10:30 am.

HC Section Master Plan- September Meeting. Jones will schedule a meeting in September. Seely, Swank, Maggiore, and Etela are the other members of the work group.

Action Items. Maggiore will visit the DHR again in mid-September and ask about EMMIT, making the point that the Commission should have free access to check the accuracy of the data. Jones will speak with DHR also (the person is on vacation at present).

5. New Business

Demo Review. 9 Ocean Blvd. The house is in the Little Boar’s Head District, and Etela referred Travis Murray, the Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector, to the LBH Heritage Commission which also has a demo review ordinance in effect. Brian Goode is the Zoning Compliance Officer for Little Boar’s Head as well as a Commissioner; the applicant must obtain a demo permit from him.

Information has been sent to Goode, and Commissioner / LBH Heritage Commission member Schoenberger was copied.

Additional new business. Maggiore thought that at present there were two members of the RailTrail Committee, Hillier and Tom Argue. Hillier stated that Jeff Latimer and a person at Harley also were involved initially and may well wish to continue. Maggiore also will follow up with Scott Baker.

There was discussion whether the Committee needed to be re-authorized. The Feb 20th, 2014 Heritage Commission minutes discussed its founding. *Members agreed that the Select Board should consider appointing a Committee which includes representatives of Heritage, Agriculture, Conservation, and Recreation Commissions and Planning and Zoning Boards as well as community members, especially those businesses which may benefit from a Rail To Trail project.*

Jones will check the records Cuetara has provided, and look for the organization's 501(c) 3 information. Maggiore will follow up with Scott Bogle and learn if he has suggestions for the Committee's charge.

Seely wondered what is happening to the barn at Dale Farm as there were large trucks unloading materials when she drove by. (There are barn preservation easements). Maggiore understands that an agri-tourism endeavor is underway of which the Southeast Land Trust is aware.

6. Next Meeting Date & Time. Thurs, Sep 19 @ 9:30am

7. Adjournment. 11:11am

Cynthia G. Swank
Recording Secretary