

Approved as prepared
19 Nov 2020 meeting



Minutes
15 Oct 2020
David Page Homestead
75 Exeter Road

Present:

Jane Currivan
Donna Etela, Chair
Jeff Hillier

Vicki Jones
Jim Maggiore
Cynthia Swank

Alternates: Nancy Monaghan, Jane Robie, Carol Seely

Also present. Lisa Mausolf, Historic Preservation Consultant

1. Call to Order at 9:34am

2. Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's report was approved as prepared. The Commission has a total of \$7715.10 available, \$1000 in operating budget and \$6715.10 in the Heritage Fund. Seely informed us that there will be no separate line in the Commission's 2021-2022 budget to pay the annual cost of PastPerfect.

Maggiore explained that preliminary cuts had to be made to the Town's budget to get it under a 3% increase. Further discussion suggested that we try to obtain an invoice in June and funds, if they are available, might be encumbered to pay the fees.

3. Approval of Minutes. September 17, 2020 minutes were approved as prepared. [Jones, Maggiore]

4. Old Business

Certified Local Government [CLG]

Jones had distributed in advance Rick Milner's email and draft ordinance he had found that might assist the Commission in writing its own. The wide-ranging discussion touched upon the Sub-committee's walkabout with two Division of Historical Resources staff members, Nadine Miller, Deputy State Historical Preservation Officer, and Brandee Loughlin, National Register and Preservation Tax Incentives Coordinator with Mausolf also present.

Much of the discussion related to two immediate actions by others that make pursuing the public outreach needed to secure approval for an ordinance difficult in a limited time period: 1) the NH Department of Transportation is requiring the Library trustees / Town to change the driveway which may affect three historic resources: the historic stone wall which is a property boundary between the Town and State and nearby granite monument property marker for the lot; the war monument; and the original (stone) Library building, now the Clerk/Collector's Office. The latter two are on the National and State Registers. The former is protected by state law. And 2) the Town seeking RFPs for design/construct for Town Offices and Public Safety facilities.

The Chair asked Mausolf's opinion. She had attended the walkabout with the DHR representatives and, in light of what she learned today, thought postponing the effort until next year when the Library construction and plans for renovation and expansion of other buildings was more settled was prudent. There was consensus among all members to do just that – wait until we know what is going on.

The immediate question of the impact of the DOT's required change resulted in the following thoughts: Etela should /will speak at tonight's Select Board meeting if she deems necessary. About the stone wall: Does the DOT recognize that it is a property boundary? Is it willing to remove carefully and rebuild or pay for the work? Among the Commission's suggestions: have the section placed between the two stone wall sections on the so-called Homestead property or have it reconstructed near the path in front of the new Library building. It also was suggested that the Library could have the person who gives a Humanities presentation about constructing stone walls either do the presentation, or perhaps have the reconstruction of the wall as part of an outdoor learning experience. Other questions are whether both Town and State need to agree about the property line and who pays?

If the DOT is requiring a change to the oval driveway in front of the stone building, and there are no other actions that may affect the war monument or building itself, suggest changing the driveway to a pedestrian only, cobblestone walkway. Swank made such a suggestion several years ago at a Capital Improvements Plan Committee meeting. The Clerk/Collector's opinion, of course, must be obtained.

[Robie and Currivan left 10:30am]

EDC Update.

Monaghan reported that the Committee is now waiting for drawings from Ironwood for the initial plan and for one without the mixed use elements. The Committee will vote to send one on to the Select Board. The Planning Board and voters, of course, would need to decide upon changes to zoning ordinances relating to mixed use, not the Select Board.

Several members reiterated this is not the time for the Town to be spending taxpayers' money when the commercial world is in such flux and the addressing empty storefronts is the main concern.

Website for HC image files progress. Swank reported that Arthur Nadeau sent her eight photos of the belfry and bell as work has begun on installing the scaffolding for the re-roofing project. She immediately added them to PastPerfect.

[Monaghan left 10:41am]

Town Hall repairs. As noted above, they are underway.

[Seely left 10:43am]

Action Items. Etela spoke with Peter Sawyer about appraisal of the bell.

5. New Business

Etela had sent members yesterday a communication from AECOM relating to an I-95 bridge in Hampton at Exit 2 on which the NH DOT will be doing work. It evidently may impact North Hampton. Numerous boards in North Hampton were sent copies; the Select Board will ask for a map. Etela wondered if there is accessible land near the area that might be a dog park possibility.

6. Next Meeting Date & Time: 11/19/20 at 9:30am

7. Adjournment: 10:50am

Cynthia G. Swank
Recording Secretary