



## Heritage Commission

Minutes

21 Sep 2021

Heritage Commission Conference Room

237 Atlantic Ave

Present:

Jane Currivan

Donna Etela, Chair

Jim Maggiore

Carol Seely

Cynthia Swank

Alternates: Jeff Hillier, Nancy Monaghan, Jane Robie

Absent: Vicki Jones

Also present: Mike Tully, Town Administrator

1. Call to Order at 9:00am; Designation of Voting - Hillier for Jones.

2. Treasurer's Report. The \$950 in unexpended funds from FY2021 has been transferred to the Heritage Fund; the FY 2022 operating budget is \$1000. Total available funds as of 8/31/21 amount to \$8,673.62. The Treasurer's report was approved as prepared. (Currivan moved, Maggiore seconded).

3. Approval of Minutes

August 19, 2021 minutes were approved as prepared. (Seely moved, Currivan seconded).

4. Old Business

**Walkway Project/ flooding.** Town Administrator Tully indicated that only one bid had been received out of the four requests. It is a local contractor and the amount is expected to about \$13k depending upon what work the Town's DPW does.

John Tuttle of T/W Designs and John Ricci, Ricci Construction, who are working on the design of the rest of the town campus asked that the walkway project be put on hold for the time being.

The new library construction has caused flooding and ponding in the parking lot and driveway, impeding pedestrians' access to the Clerk/Collector's Office. Rather than laying

blame at anyone's feet, the Town Administrator expects to have DPW construct a leaching culvert (French drain) at a cost of about \$2k in the hope of remedying the situation.

*Moved up. New Business. Building Committee Involvement.*

There was a discussion between Tully and HC members about the following:

- The Committee recognized that any actions that may affect the stone building should involve obtaining advice and input from the Heritage Commission.
- Invite historic preservation consultant Lisa Mausolf to participate in any Building Committee meeting where her input and advice would be appropriate. Etela emailed Mausolf prior to the meeting to learn if she is willing and able but has not received a response.
- One or two HC members (Jane Currivan, Jeff Hillier and Carol Seely were designated) may attend future Building Committee meetings to be available as a resource. Monaghan will monitor meeting calendar. Minutes of the Building Committee will be posted on the town website.
- Among the possibilities being considered is a connector between the existing 1972 library building and the stone building. It might serve as the main entrance with those having business with the Clerk / Collector going in one direction to the stone building and all others going toward the former library building.
- The Committee is aware that the existing building has insufficient space for the town's needs. The Town might make use of the pod the Library now has, and repurpose it for the Parks and Rec Department or Building Inspector. The other possibility if there is no town warrant for the buildings in 2022 is to use the existing library building for storage. Etela and others urged that any storage area, temporary or permanent, include space for the election equipment now occupying the stage in Town Hall.

*Moved up Old Business. Schnitzler report; Action items.*

In addition to asking Schnitzler about snow being piled up near / against the stone building, Etela noted three other repair items for the stone building: the chimney, screen in the screen door, and vestibule tile.

Tully indicated the chimney has been added for Schnitzler's attention. He noted the screen repair. He and some HC members looked at the damaged and dirty vestibule tile that was uncovered when a dog threw up on the rug that had been covering the area. He agreed that Schnitzler's advice or recommendation for the appropriate repair person should be sought. (The tile is original to the building).

This discussion led to a request by Swank to have the HC take photos of the interiors of the Police and Fire Departments. She noted that in late 2013 intern Martha Cummings had taken exterior shots of all municipal buildings in anticipation of a positive vote on the town

campus plan. Cummings also had photos of the interiors of all but the Public Safety spaces. Tully agreed, and noted that there may also be Fire Department artifacts that the town might wish to save, including Marvin the Martian.

Tully left at 10:38am.

*Resumed Old Business.*

**HDC North Hill Interest/Presentation.**

Jones' absence limited discussion. All agreed that the HC should concentrate on creating a local historic district composed of Centennial Hall, North Hill (Town) Common, and perhaps the UCC church. Such a district would enable the town to become a Certified Local Government and be eligible for grants relating to the preservation of historic resources, including private ones, anywhere in town.

Etela will approach Centennial Hall; it was thought that materials might be put together and shown Jane and Bill Boesch to obtain their input and opinion as to the prospects and procedures for approaching the Church. Robie or Jones will contact.

**Alternate Position(s).** Currivan has a gentleman who is enthusiastic about history and lives in LBH who may be a possibility. Monaghan also had a guy who seemed a possibility but she felt unlikely to apply.

**Meeting schedule and location.**

Third Thursday, Heritage Commission conference room.

Etela then brought up a concern about the potential hazards the mats covering wires in Town Hall might pose. Several noted they were a trip and fall hazard but perhaps more importantly to the building itself, some mats may have electrical wires under them, and represent a fire hazard, A motion (Seely moved, Hillier seconded) passed unanimously that the Heritage Commission, because of its interest in the safety of this historic National Register building and any occupants, requests through Maggiore that the Fire Chief inspect the building for any code violations. Maggiore will notify the Town Administrator.

6. Next Meeting Date & Time. Thursday, Oct 21 at 9:30am

7. Adjournment. 11:14am

Cynthia G. Swank  
Recording Secretary