



Heritage Commission

Minutes

21 October 2021

237 Atlantic Ave., Stone Building
Heritage Commission Conference Room

Present:

Donna Etela, chair

Vicki Jones

Jim Maggiore [arr. 9:34]

Carol Seely

Cynthia Swank

Alternates: Jeff Hillier, Nancy Monaghan, Jane Robie

Absent: Jane Currivan

1. Call to Order. 9:32AM; Robie to vote for Currivan
2. Treasurer's Report. Seely reported that as of 9/1/21 the Heritage Fund had \$7673.62. The addition of 65 cents interest and the \$1000 operating budget brings total available funds to \$8,674.27. The Report was approved as prepared. (Jones, Robie)
3. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of 23 September 2021 were approved as prepared. (Robie, Jones)

4. Old Business

Historic District and Certified Local Government.

Etela had distributed in advance of the meeting a Sunday Portsmouth Herald article which cited a recent report on affordable housing that indicated Portsmouth, New Castle and Rye were the most restrictive towns and North Hampton among the top ten. This was a lead-in to a long discussion about continuing the effort at this time to create a local historic district so that the town would be eligible for annual grant funding for historic resources when it became eligible as a Certified Local Government.

Etela had not yet spoken with Marcy McCann of Centennial Hall; Jones had prepared a packet of information which she discussed with Bill and Jane Boesch. The sentiment was that Church leadership and members would want to see the proposed regulations before signing on to the effort.

The consensus was that the timing was wrong. Politics are toxic in general and the HC would be foolish to put so much time in an effort which might not succeed at this time. Nevertheless, a packet of information for both Centennial Hall and the UCC should be developed that includes the likely standards. All agreed that asking historic preservation consultant Lisa Mausolf to advise regarding the standards and to be available for presentations made sense.

Building Committee Report. No minutes of the Committee's October meeting have been posted yet but Etela reported that she and Seely had attended.

She indicated that a connector between the stone building (original Library) and the 1972 library building is one of the options.

Another idea floated was moving the war monument to the west side of the stone building and adding parking in front of the building. The Committee rejected that option but the Town Administrator wants the Heritage Commission to be definitive in its reaction.

For that reason, Commission members voted unanimously to "respectfully remind the Select Board that the war monument and its placement is cited in the National Register of Historic Places of the stone building (the original 1907 library) and war monument, and that it would be unproductive to pursue its relocation."

Jones and Swank responded to another option where a two story building would not have an elevator as it would be for "storage" and rejected that premise.

Etela noted the inaccuracies in the plans that the Committee seemed to be using.

[Hillier left 10:42]

Schnitzler Report- Stone Building/Update. No update from Maggiore.

Walkway Project/Flooding. On hold.

Alternate Positions. Etela is still working on it.

Action Items.

Maggiore described outcome of inspection of Town Hall by Chief Lajoie. The following items were noted in the Chief's report:

TV extension cord being used; should be wired

2 hr. fire rated kitchen door needed

1 hr. fire ceiling protection from cellar needed

Exposed wiring in basement

Carbon monoxide and smoke alarms needed

Window and stage drapes must be flame retardant (unknown)

Excessive storage of stuff on stage

36 inch clearance for all aisles
Fire door between kitchen and meeting room needed
Automatic Fire Suppression recommended

It is possible that a certified protection engineer may be consulted.

5. New Business. None

Other info. Maggiore informed members that Town department heads had received a fraudulent email purportedly from Maggiore seeking Google gift cards. Be alert. Police were notified.

6. Next Meeting Date & Time. Nov 18, 2021 at 9:30am

7. Adjournment. 11:05am

Cynthia G. Swank
Recording Secretary