



Heritage Commission

Minutes
2022 Aug 25
233 Atlantic Ave.
Mary Herbert Room

Present:

Jane Currivan
Donna Etela, Chair
Vicki Jones

Jim Maggiore
Carol Seely
Cynthia Swank

Alternates: Susan McCullom-Barry, Nancy Monaghan

Absent: Jane Robie, John Sillay

Also present: Lisa Mausolf, historic preservation consultant; John Bottomley, Library Landscape Committee (arr. 10:04)

1. Call to Order at 9:33am.

2. Treasurer's Report

The June 16, 2022 report was amended, removing the word "checking". The same change also was made for the July 21, 2022 report. The two reports were approved unanimously (Swank moved, Jones seconded).

Following up on a question at last month's meeting, Maggiore reported there is no dedicated account for the donations made for the walkway that will be in the front of the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's (stone) building. The walkway is not part of the warrant article / bonded fund for the renovation and expansion of the former Library for Town Offices and the new Public Safety Building. Finance Director Cornwell keeps track and that method has been cleared by the auditors. Maggiore indicated that Ricci Construction will do the work and, when the time comes, the Heritage Commission would need to vote the funds. The fund will include the interest accrued.

The August 25, 2022 Treasurer's report was approved unanimously. (Swank, Jones)

3. Approval of Minutes

The July 21, 2022 minutes were approved as prepared unanimously. (Currivan, Maggiore)

4. Old Business

Historic District Commission/CLG. Jones outlined what the Commission has done over the past 2 1/2 years and that Mausolf had been hired to assist and report back with her recommendations.

Mausolf looked at various communities and spoke with Brandee Loughlin, NH Division of Historical Resources. What Mausolf and the HC members had heard from the DHR two years ago has changed markedly. The DHR sees little chance of success in gaining approval of the National Park Service for an Historic District or a Certified Local Government application. The Service gives every indication of changing its standards and favorable action on several long-standing districts, including Manchester's Amoskeag workers housing area. Bedford and Mont Vernon are two others. Mausolf advised not to proceed but she and the Commission should stay in touch with Loughlin. As an aside, the Church was entirely favorable to such a district.

Changing the subject while Mausolf was present, Etela asked if the NH Department of Transportation has contacted her about the projects she is contracted to do as part of the Drake's Bridge mitigation work. Etela reiterated that we need to make sure our Memorandum of Understanding with the NH DOT is renewed if the work is delayed beyond the five year time period.

Mausolf indicated that Centennial Hall is trying for another LCHIP grant. She will provide mileage for her two recent trips to North Hampton, one for the North Hampton Historical Society and the other for the Heritage Commission. [left 10:10am]

Jones will write a note for Maggiore that he can use as a recap for the next Select Board meeting.

Library stone wall email. [moved up from New Business]. Bottomley was attending the HC meeting in Emily Creighton's stead. Creighton as chair of the Library's Landscape Committee, which reports to the trustees, had emailed the Heritage Commission *via* the Town website inquiring about the stone wall - "whether anything can be done to the Stonewall along Atlantic Avenue side of the Library. Can stones be added to bare areas? What if anything can be done to return it to the builder's purpose?"

Etela had a Town Hall Day poster showing an image of the old driveway from Atlantic Ave. to the house that formerly was on the site, and the portion of the wall toward the new driveway cut required by the State DOT. The wall represents the boundary line between town and state. She noted that on May 25, 2021 she, Jane Robie, and Vicki Jones had visited the new Library construction site and spoken with Barrett Ryan Salta, project manager for Bonnette Page and Stone. Jackqui Brandt and Emily Creighton had initiated that visit.

Etela later viewed the work and all seemed in keeping with laws regarding historic stone walls that mark boundaries. The bound marker was moved accurately and excess stones added on top of the existing wall.

To Bottomley's questions, Etela suggested finding someone with expertise to remove old tree stumps. If the corner trees need to be removed, she suggested as a source the NH Preservation Alliance's vendor directory that is online or simply phoning its office. Swank mentioned Northeast Shade Tree had looked at their trees and noted that many trees are suffering from stress caused by the drought. Maggiore said the Town Tree Warden also could take a look and assess.

[Bottomley left 10:28]

[Currivan left 10:32; McCullom-Barry was designated to vote in her stead]

Master Plan update. In light of Mausolf's report, the draft Master Plan needs to be re-worked. Jones recommended a planning meeting to re-visit the draft, looking at the coastal hazards, Rail Trail, and Drake's bridge elements and considering other possible ones. Etela suggested that more needs to be done relating to barn easements. With the rapid turnover of Building Inspectors and the pandemic, no inspections have occurred. Maggiore will send the list of barns with easements. Jared Shaheen is the new Building Inspector; his knowledge and interest in barns is not known.

Past Perfect/Web site update. Swank reported that she has edited the front matter on the Town website in an attempt to simplify instructions, and asked that all review and send comments to her. She located the images of the Megalethoscope photographs that NEDCC had provided. They were on a thumb drive, not disk. She will enter them next.

Maggiore will take photos of the interiors of the Public Safety building, including some of the wall hangings that likely will be reinstalled in the new building. The Heritage Commission will then have images of all the Town Campus buildings before their transformation or demolition. Swank will add to online collections on the Heritage Commission's webpage.

As part of the demo review process for 54 Atlantic [see below], the owner gave permission for two Heritage Commission members to go onto the property and take exterior and interior photos, adding significant documentation beyond the ones taken from the road. Robie's images are now on PastPerfect and accessible to all; Jones will send hers to Swank. Etela noted that Currivan had sent her the realtor video of the interior. [Note: the North Hampton Historical Society website has images from the Morris Lamprey Family Collection that include the house at the time the second story was removed in 1976 plus earlier ones]

Action Items. Only one remaining is Maggiore asking Rowden about the discrepancy between the maps in the coastal hazard master plan and the historic resources map. Rowden is on vacation.

5. New Business

54 Atlantic Ave. The Demo Review Committee, members Etela, Maggiore, Swank and alternate Robie, met July 29, to review and discuss the demo permit application described in the PastPerfect/Website item above. The minutes were approved as prepared by the Demo Review Comm members. (Maggiore moved, Etela seconded)

For future demo permit applications, Etela will forward to the entire Heritage Commission so there are no surprises.

The Commission voted unanimously for John Sillay to serve as Alternate on the Demo Review Committee, replacing Jeff Hillier. [Jones, Seely]

Budget request Sept. 9. Etela will let the Town Administrator know that \$1000 seems sufficient and no additional funds are being requested.

[Monaghan left at 11am]

Other Business.

Noah Robie had sent Etela an email on August 22nd regarding the September 13th unveiling of the Lafayette Trail marker on the Town Common (near the bandstand and across the road from the approximate location in 1824 of the Leavitt Tavern). Noah Robie suggested that the Historical Society and Heritage Commission might collaborate on the ceremony.

A discussion ensued. September 13th is primary election day, making logistics more difficult than an ordinary weekday or weekend day. Maggiore will ask the Town Administrator to contact the North Hampton School and the American Legion via Joe Kutt; he will contact the High School and also John Savastano to have the event filmed; and will contact the paper. Copies of the poster provided by Julien Icher: Maggiore will ask Jan to put in Friday Folder. McCullom-Barry will put on the local Facebook; Swank will give to the Library and Seely make sure they are handed out at the Barn Tour September 10th. Seely also will alert all NHHS members of the event. Jane Robie and Jane Boesch are making a hood for marker until it is unveiled.

6. Next Meeting Date & Location. Sep 15, Mary Herbert Room.

7. Adjournment 11:32AM

Cynthia G. Swank
Recording Secretary