

Approved as prepared  
at 17 Nov 2022 meeting



Minutes  
27 October 2022  
Mary Herbert Room  
233 Atlantic Ave.

Members Present:

Donna Etela, Chair

Vicki Jones

Jim Maggiore

Carol Seely

Cynthia Swank

Alternates: Jane Robie

Absent: Jane Currivan, Susan McCullom-Barry, Nancy Monaghan, John Sillay

1. Meeting called to order at 9:40am; Robie to vote for Currivan.
2. The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously. [Robie moved, Etela seconded] As of September 30, there is \$775 in the operating budget; and with the addition of \$25.61 interest, \$26,230,27 in the Heritage Fund.
3. Approval of Minutes of September 15, 2022 as written were approved unanimously. [Jones, Maggiore]

4. Old Business

**Master Plan update.** Jones noted that the subcommittee had met after the September meeting and she has updated the draft document. The remaining work will likely relate to decisions made by the Town and Heritage Commission about the State's barn tax incentive program. Maggiore indicated that the Governor has earmarked money to municipalities for a Master Plan as it relates to more and better housing. There are grant opportunities for the Planning Board to do analyses.

**Past Perfect/Web site update.** Swank continues to add the Megaethoscope slides to PastPerfect. She found and can move on to the images taken as part of an Eagle Scout project in 2016 that included a windshield survey of the town with those buildings that may be barns photographed, identified by address and GPS coordinates, and location on the historic resources map. She is providing the Chair with a thumb drive of the images and other elements of the report. Deciding which ones truly are barns will need to be done.

**Barn Easements.** Etela distributed the list of current 10 year discretionary barn easements in North Hampton. She noted that in 2017 the drafting of procedures were created but one key portion not yet accomplished. She thought the Commission with the aid of the Building Inspector should be inspecting the structure and determining the dimensions, not the Assessor. Maggiore does not know the current Building Inspector's familiarity with or interest in agricultural structures. The one who was to be involved in the effort died suddenly.

Most of the discussion was about the grant money available to the Town for analysis. He contacted Jenn Rowden, circuit rider for the Rockingham Planning Commission during the meeting. It is \$25k for a needs analysis & planning; \$50k for a review/audit of zoning regulations; and \$100k for regulation development.

All agreed that funding for such a study represents a possible opportunity for the Planning Board and Heritage Commission to consider the reuse of barns and other farm accessory building. Several members noted that some barns have already been converted to in-law or rental apartments as well as other uses. Jones will contact Mausolf to learn her thoughts and interest in a potential project. Maggiore will have further discussion with Rowden and at the next Planning Board work session.

As for this coming year's barn tax incentive application process, Etela will prepare an article for the next Community Newsletter, describing the benefits and any risks. The Friday Folder poster also might list the types of agricultural buildings that may be eligible.

**Action Items.** Jones reported that the Historical Society does not have much of a barn list from the Agricultural Commission. Swank will download the more complete PDF list on the Town website, Ag Commission web page, and send to the Chair and anyone else who would like it at this time.

Maggiore and Robie will take photos of the now vacated Fire and Police interior spaces after the meeting and forward to Swank. These photos will complement the exterior ones of the two buildings and the interior ones of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor town Offices taken in 2014 by Martha Cummings that are now on PastPerfect.

5. New Business

**Meeting schedule and location.** If this building is still available on November 17<sup>th</sup>, the Mary Herbert Room. Otherwise, the Heritage Commission Conference Room in the stone building.

6. Next Meeting Date & Location. Nov 17<sup>th</sup>, as described above.

7. Adjournment. 10:52am

Cynthia G. Swank  
Recording Secretary