

Approved as written
at 16 Mar 2023
meeting



Heritage Commission

Minutes
2023 Feb 16
239a Atlantic Ave.
Town Office Conference Room

Present:

Jane Currivan
Donna Etela
Vicki Jones

Jim Maggiore
Carol Seely
Cynthia Swank

Alternates: Susan McCullom-Barry, Jane Robie, John Sillay

Absent: Nancy Monaghan

1. Call to Order at 9:37 am.

2. **Treasurer's Report.** As of January 31, the Fund balance is \$26,420.76 which includes \$56.22 in monthly interest. Excluding the funds collected for the Walkway project, The Commission has \$9,645.76 available including \$775 of this year's budget.

The only question was about the seemingly high amount of interest earned each month. Cornwell was not in; Maggiore will check. Maggiore reiterated that the interest earned is the Heritage Commission's. The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously with the question about interest noted. [Currivan moved, Jones seconded]

3. **Approval of Minutes for January 19, 2023.** The minutes as prepared were approved unanimously. [Jones, Seely]

4. Old Business

Master Plan update. Jones had sent the last draft of Master Plan to all members and alternates in advance of the meeting. Swank had sent Jones her comments prior to the meeting; Etela offered several suggestions at the meeting. Jones asked that any additional comments from anyone be sent to her by the end of February at which time she will revise and distribute prior to the March meeting.

Jones also had spoken with Rick Milner and he suggested waiting until the April meeting of the Planning Board when new people will be on the Board. He asked that he and Jenn Rowden of the Rockingham Planning Commission receive copies.

Among some revisions noted: the HC's significant involvement in the Dale and Hobbs Farms efforts; the demo review ordinance's importance in giving the HC the opportunity for discussion with the applicant; and crediting Casey Maggiore's work on color coding the historic resources map. (Swank noted that the map is not the one appearing on the RPC's profile of North Hampton webpage).

During the discussion it was noted that the HC has consulting status under Section 106 of the National Preservation Act for projects that include Federal financing. That was why the HC received a recent Section 106 request for the new generator installed when the 1970s library was renovated and expanded for Town Offices; and why any federally funded aspects of the new Public Safety Building may result in another Section 106.

Past Perfect/Web site update. Swank indicated no one had offered comments. Etela said she had looked at the recent images Robie and Maggiore had taken of the of the Public Safety building and that she was unable to scroll by arrow through them. Swank will check and provide instructions as both she and Jones have been able to do so.

Barn Easements. Jones had investigated and there is no money to assist in obtaining barn preservation easements; she will double-check with Lisa Mausolf.

Etela spoke with Chris Lane and his restoration contractor about the barn at New and Post Roads. Lane decided to wait until after the barn is restored before applying for a discretionary preservation easement.

Action Items

Robie provided the name of the Portsmouth firm – Alphagraphics – as a possible vendor for producing large photo prints of several Megalethoscope slide images if an appropriate space near a wall is found for displaying the Megalethoscope itself.

Lisa will prepare a proposal for a barn inventory when the Commission has a money source.

Maggiore agreed with Etela that the gist of the Planning Board preliminary consultation meeting with Peter Rhoades related mostly to the DOT Drake Bridge road project but that wetlands was also a consideration. Neither knew whether Rhoades has spoken with Planning Zoning Administrator Milner and Jenn Rowden of the RPC.

5. New Business

Town Hall and Stone Building. Maggiore will check with the Town Administrator and get an updated status of the projects.

Etela distributed photocopies of some of the pages in a New Hampshire Preservation Alliance booklet entitled *Preserving Community Character* and information about Heritage Commissions on the NHPA's website; Etela asked that all review. She noted that we seem to be at an impasse and need to consider what the HC might do to increase public understanding of and support for the Heritage Commission. A discussion about historical societies and heritage commissions ensued. A neighborhood heritage district may be something to think about.

Other. Jane Currivan announced she is moving to Portsmouth, and as she will no longer be a North Hampton resident, ineligible to continue as a member of the Heritage Commission. She was thanked for her long service – she is the Commission's longest-serving member. Currivan stressed that all should feel free to call upon her at Coldwell Banker for large photocopies and anything else she might do.

This announcement brought about a discussion of members' and alternates' terms for the next fiscal year. All alternates are up; and Etela's and Jones' terms as Members. For Currivan's slot, Sillay declined to be considered for the Member slot but indicated willingness to be involved in the Rail Trail efforts relating to the Heritage Commission. Robie also declined; McCullom-Barry was non-committal.

[Currivan left 10:35am]

6. Next Meeting Date & Location. Thursday, March 16, 2023 in the Town Office Conference Room.

7. Adjournment. 10:42am

Cynthia G. Swank
Recording Secretary