



Heritage Commission

Minutes
2023 March 16
237A Atlantic Ave.
Town Office Conference Room

Present:

Donna Etela, chair
Vicki Jones

Cynthia Swank

Alternates: Susan McCullom-Barry, Nancy Monaghan, Jane Robie

Absent: Jim Maggiore, Carol Seely, John Sillay

1. Call to Order at 9:30am, Designation of Voting -- McCullom-Barry for Seely

2. Treasurer's Report

March 16, 2023. None as Treasurer not present. Maggiore contacted Etela prior to the meeting. He had learned from the Finance Director that TD Bank has had continuing rate increases over last six months and the interest being earned by the Commission is correct.

3. Approval of Minutes

February 16, 2023 minutes as written were approved unanimously. [Jones moved, McCullom-Barry seconded].

4. Old Business

Master Plan update. Jones has made no further revisions. It is ready to be submitted to the Planning Board. Monaghan suggested the April work session.

Past Perfect/Web site update. Swank reported that she had found some images on her PC dating prior to her membership on the Heritage Commission but relating to the Town Campus. They include interior and exterior images of the John Leavitt house on the Homestead property prior to its demolition, and the exterior of the Highway Department sheds that were behind the Fire and Police Stations on Atlantic Avenue. She has added those images to PP; they are accessible via the Commission's webpage on the Town website.

Swank asked about photos of the new Library and the demolition of the Fire and Police Stations. Jones indicated that the demolition was filmed. Swank will ask the Library Director about Library construction photos and whether the Heritage Commission may have digital images to add to PastPerfect.

Etela expressed interest in seeing any photos of the front façade of the 1970s Library building and noted that Martha Cummings had not taken such exterior shots in 2014. Swank will check for any. Jones indicated that the Historical Society has photos available on its website that were taken by Dot Spear during the construction of that building. Swank thought there may be some in the Friends of the Library scrapbooks which the Historical Society also has digitized and are available on its website.

Barn Easements. Etela reported that there have been no applications so far. Swank submitted an updated “poster” for the Friday Folder that gives the correct deadline date. It is Monday, April 17th, not April 14th.

Jones had spoken with Lisa Mausolf to learn if she knew of any possible grant opportunities that could assist in funding a town-wide barn survey. Mausolf was unaware of any, and noted that preservation funding in general was drying up. Etela or Jones will contact New Hampshire Preservation Alliance for information and suggestions.

Action Items.

Responding to the Chair’s request at the last meeting for suggestions about what the HC might do to increase public understanding of and support for the Heritage Commission, Swank thought the Commission as well as all other town boards need to create pithy descriptions of mission and chief activities. It should be in writing as it seems the only way to reach most residents and businesses is via the Community Newsletter.

As a follow-up to the lack of funding for a town-wide barn survey and potentially trying to refine and document the number and location of barns, Monaghan recommended checking the Vision appraisal database.

5. New Business

Members’ and Alternate Members’ terms.

Etela and Jones re-upped for three year terms as Members. Robie re-upped as an Alternate, a one year term. Alternate McCullom-Barry agreed to continue Currivan’s term as a Member. Etela will check whether a letter to the Select Board is needed.

She also will ask Sillay to continue as an Alternate. The Planning Board has its organization meeting on Tuesday and Monaghan will inform Etela whether she or someone else will be the representative.

There was a unanimous vote approving all nominations. [Swank, Jones]

Contact from Joe Fitzgerald.

Etela reported that Fitzgerald had sent an email to the Commission via the Town website. When she and Fitzgerald connected, she learned he had contacted the Commission to express his concerns about the Drake Bridge area which included Drake Farm, the Rail Trail, and Coakley landfill, all on the west side of Route 1. (The landfill is adjacent to the Rail Trail and he was concerned about young riders going onto the property). She suggested that he put his concerns in writing. Etela, in the meanwhile, passed along Fitzgerald's concerns to the Town Administrator. The NH DOT representative at the Select Board's last meeting indicated the Route 1 / Drake Bridge project most likely will be 2025.

Other. There were two suggestions for finding at least one more Alternate: reach out to PAL (Parents Active in Learning) and Jonathan Klandrud.

6. Next Meeting Date & Location. April 20, 2023 at 237a Atlantic Ave. Town Office Conference Room.

7. Adjournment – 10:24 am

Cynthia G. Swank
Recording Secretary