

Approved as written at
22 Sep 2023 meeting



Minutes
20 July 2023
237A Atlantic Avenue
Town Offices - Mary Herbert Room

Present:

Donna Etela
Jim Maggiore
Susan McCullom-Barry

Carol Seely
Cynthia Swank

Alternates: Nancy Monaghan, Jane Robie

Absent: John Sillay, Vicki Jones

1. Call to Order at 9:33am; Robie to vote for Jones.
2. Treasurer's Report. The July 8, 2023 Treasurer's report covering the month of June was approved as written. [Swank moved, Robie seconded]. It indicated that the Commission ended its fiscal year with a balance of \$26,736.70. \$17,550 of the total represents money earmarked for the Walkway Project. \$69.19 in interest had been earned during the month of June; there were no other credits or charges and \$725 remained in the operating budget.
3. Approval of Minutes. It was noted that the date of the meeting was June 16, 2023, not June 17. There was no other change. The emended minutes were approved [Seely, McCullom].

4. Old Business

Master Plan/Planning Board accepted 6/20/23. The Chair noted that the Planning Board at its 6/20/23 meeting accepted the Commission's historic resources chapter for the Master Plan.

Past Perfect/Web site update. Swank reported that she has added additional images of the Carter/Lane property that may have come from Robie. Robie, Currivan and Swank receive credit in the description as the photographers. She also found more photos of the original Library building, interior and exterior which have been added.

While searching for photos, she found the 2002 inventory of the Eastern Railroad prepared by Lisa Mausolf for the State of New Hampshire. She was unable to compress the PDF as Adobe now charges for that feature. [Note: Facella had no problem putting the document on the Town website. It is the Friday Folder where there are size restrictions].

Barn Easement procedures re LBH properties. The Chair tried without success for a LBH resident as an alternate to the Heritage Commission. Maggiore will discuss with the LBH commissioners whether the LBH Heritage Commission might have similar procedures in place relating to the handling of preservation barn easements. It was noted that the RSA covers various agricultural and agricultural accessory resources.

Land Use Summit 6/22/2023 review. The meeting comprised of two members from each of the land use boards produced a lively, informative session. Etela and Swank attended. Swank noted that she had suggested that next year's effort include whatever committee exists relating to the Rail Trail as its presence has possible impacts for several land use boards.

Pocket Park. The Chair related the contents of early documents relating to the Drake Bridge mitigation and the possibility of a pocket park to hold a portion of the historic concrete railing as well as a plaque. The mitigation includes a booklet giving the history of the railroad as it relates to North Hampton, and the railing. A pocket park would be up to the town.

A long discussion ensued. Over time, most members had viewed the area around Atlantic Avenue. Others had walked the entire North Hampton portion where possible. It was noted that near the Drake Bridge is perpetually wet and no one knew what the State expects to do when it reaches that area.

Maggiore indicated that if a pocket park were near Atlantic Avenue, it would need to be discussed with the adjacent landowner. If near Drake Bridge, the state would need to indicate where it might be located.

It was agreed that such a park would need to be within the easement area and that Andy Vorkink of the Conservation Commission is the local expert when it comes to easements. The three parties near Atlantic are Lake Erie Biofuels, Thera Research, and Joe's. Maggiore will print out the GIS map showing the area.

It also is unclear who will do the maintenance of the rail trail. Scott Bogle of the Rockingham Planning Commission has proposed the non-profit 501(c)3 committee would manage the maintenance of the trail with donations provided by the member towns. A memorandum of understanding would be necessary.

Monaghan recommended that if the railing is not going to be near the Drake Bridge, don't do a pocket park. Members began to discuss alternatives and their fear of crowding, traffic, litter near the Atlantic Avenue area mitigated somewhat by the proximity of the Police Department. Is the pocket park intended to be a town park? Could the railing be placed on the Town (North Hill) Common? The length of the railing is expected to be 10-12 feet; the rail trail width is 24 feet.

Etela pointed out that one of the original ideas she had proposed was an installation by Town Offices. As the town campus plan has evolved over the years, it now means right outside where we're sitting. All agreed that it was the simplest and best solution. Residents would see the railing in a pleasant location where a bench might be placed, and near the original Library and Town War Memorial. The booklet being prepared by Lisa Mausolf would be readily accessible at the Town Offices and Town Clerk's Office.

[Robie left 10:35 am]

Swank volunteered to research the conservation/preservation of a concrete object.

Action Items

None

5. New Business

Etela had received an email from the Recreation Commission which also mentioned both Jones and Seely. It seemed to be asking for financial support for, not participation in, Old Home Day. Etela will respond indicating that such a donation does not fit the Commission's purpose per its bylaws and RSAs.

She reiterated that the Commission needs additional alternates.

6. Next Meeting Date & Location. Sept 21 at 9:30am in the Mary Herbert Room, Town Offices. There is no August meeting.

7. Adjournment. 10:54 am

Cynthia G. Swank
Recording Secretary