



Heritage Commission

Minutes
15 Feb 2024
237A Atlantic Avenue
Town Offices - Mary Herbert Room

Present:

Donna Etela (chair)
Vicki Jones
Jim Maggiore

Susan McCullom-Barry
Cynthia Swank

Alternates: Nancy Monaghan, Jane Robie, John Sillay

Absent: Carol Seely

1. Call to Order: At 9:30am; Sillay to vote for Seely

2. Treasurer's Report. The Chair explained that the Feb 2023 numbers, not Feb 2024, were given to the Treasurer in error. When Seely returns, she will obtain the correct ones. In the meanwhile, the Chair confirmed with the Finance Director that the Walkway funds were used for the intended purpose.

3. Approval of Minutes

The January 18, 2024 minutes were approved as prepared by Jones.. [Swank moved, Maggiore seconded]

4. Old Business

Past Perfect/Web site update. Maggiore will seek interior photos of the new Public Safety Building. Swank continues entering images.

Barn Easements. The Assessor's letters to the barn owners who received the first preservation easements in North Hampton ten years ago were worded differently from more recent ones. Maggiore discussed with the Assessor, and the Assessor has sent out letters to the three owners informing them that they need to submit a new application if they wish to continue with the easement. The Chair requested copies of those letters. Monaghan suggested that town counsel review the new letters; Maggiore agreed and will speak with the Town Administrator. It also was noted that there may be one or two new applications this year.

Rye Demo Review. Swank reported that she and Etela had attended the Rye Demo Review Committee's public hearing relating to a 19th century house to learn how another town manages such a hearing. The property owner attended and it was clear that he and the committee and others were cooperating in publicizing the availability of the house for free. While there may be little chance of it remaining in Rye, other Rye houses over the years have been moved to other NH towns and as far as the Midwest.

Action Items. Jones described her communication with Lisa Mausolf *re* a barn survey, discussed below in new business.

Barn easements and photos of the Public Safety building interior already discussed.

5. New Business

Barn Survey. Mausolf responded to the Commission's query with questions we need to consider including purposes, how it might be narrowed down, definition of "representative" barns in North Hampton, date range, barn types, information to be collected and how to be reported. She could not estimate a cost at present.

A discussion ensued with the following thoughts expressed: the survey might result in a booklet similar to 2018's Town-wide Historic Resources for which we would sell copies; contact Stratham regarding its recent survey of Portsmouth Avenue historic buildings; contact Moultonborough about John Porter and his possible work on barns in that town.

It was noted that the Appraisal database uses the term "outbuildings" which can even include generators so that existing sources of information are not

necessarily as helpful as needed. Maggiore will ask the Assessor if it is possible to parse out barns from that database.

At the next meeting a sub-committee will be formed.

106 Review. The proposed cell tower at 142 Mill Road prompted Section 106 of the National Preservation Act. The Chair received an email forwarded by the North Hampton Historical Society from EBI Consulting and responded. There is no known impact upon historic resources in North Hampton.

Terms of Office. The Chair noted that Seely's term is up this year; as well as those of the alternates. It will be taken at the March meeting.

Eyes to the future/location review. The Chair asked the group about returning to the Heritage Commission Room in the stone building where our storage equipment and records are located. The broad consensus was to continue using the Mary Herbert conference room for our meetings.

[Sillay at 10:21 leaves]

6. Next Meeting Date & Location. Thursday, March 21, 2024, Mary Herbert Conference Room, Town Office building.

7. Adjournment. 10:28am

Cynthia G. Swank
Recording Secretary