



North Hampton
Heritage
Commission

15 November 2018
Heritage Commission Conference Room
237 Atlantic Avenue

Present:

Paul Cuetara

Jane Currivan [arrived 9:37am]

Donna Etela, Chair

Cynthia Swank

Alternates: Jeff Hillier, Vicki Jones, Nancy Monaghan, Carol Seely

Absent: Jim Maggiore, Jane Robie

1. Call to Order at 9:30am; Designation of Voting -- Seely for Robie; Hillier for Currivan until her arrival.

2. Treasurer's Report.

Report on Motion from last meeting. Etela had distributed draft letter prepared by the Commission's Treasurer to send to the Finance Director; the Chair also reminded everyone about the printing and distribution of the Historic Resources town-wide area form book. [Currivan arrives]. After some discussion about possible revisions and the need for such a letter, members decided not to send one to the Finance Director (moved by Swank, seconded by Currivan).

Treasurer's report was approved (moved by Seely, seconded by Cuetara). The Heritage Commission has a \$1000 operating budget and \$6,522.27 in the Heritage Fund as of October 31.

The Treasurer asked for approval to renew the Heritage Commission's membership in the NH Preservation Alliance. Cost is \$50; all agreed.

3. Approval of Minutes.

October 18, 2018 minutes were approved as prepared. (Currivan moved, Etela seconded).

4. Old Business

Town Hall RFP. Nothing to report on status. Etela will encourage a person who has worked on her house to bid on doing the more immediately necessary work on the new portion of Town Hall.

Stone Building update. The Etelas happened to see the contractor and painter of the building when the work finishing up. They all inspected the building and found spots that needed to be repainted. The contractor noted that he thought the eyebrow windows may need to be replaced in two years max and that there should be an annual assessment. He indicated that the Town would need to get an estimate from a window company or building contractor. Etela asked that he put the recommendation in writing which he did. The Town Administrator was copied on the exchange of information.

Cuetara and Jones will look for info about the person in Alton who restored the Town Hall windows; Hillier will try to find out from the American Independence Museum in Exeter the person who gave a presentation about windows there; and Seely will provide information about the person used for such work at the Warner House in Portsmouth.

Process for HC consultation on Town owned historic buildings; and Barn Easement Inspections [item moved up]. Maggiore and Etela are working on both. Hillier has provided list of items for barn inspections that will be incorporated into what is submitted. Etela reported that the NH Preservation Alliance is updating its checklist.

Etela noted that she has the consulting policy document which was approved by the Select Board in January 2013. Jones mentioned that the policy will be needed for a Certified Local Government application. Etela suggested having Maggiore come to one of the CLG sub-committee meetings.

EDC [Economic Development Committee] Update. Monaghan reported that the Committee will be sending an interim report next month to the Select Board that will include its vision statement. The emphasis is upon having a "village center" on Lafayette Road from Cedar Road to Hobbs Road by 2030. It would be necessary to 1) hire or contract with an Economic Development Director; and 2) review all relevant land use regulations.

There was some discussion and there seemed more questions than answers at this stage. A "village center" is not defined; there is a desire for sidewalks and accessibility between and among properties; there are no cost estimates; there may be sentiment among some to rollback or relax wetland restrictions on Lafayette Road; the face-to-face interviews with business owners are not continuing.

Barn Easement inspections. [see above item *Process for....*]

Drake Hill bridge meeting. Etela received a letter from Mrs. Hale. Etela had to contact the NH Department of Transportation in order to obtain the most recent information about the project that is required due to the presence of historic resources. She subsequently received links to the various documents which she distributed to members.

Action Items. None that have not already been discussed.

5. New Business

CLG [Certified Local Government] Committee meeting. Jones distributed a summary she had prepared for the sub-committee's work session. There was much discussion about the process, and the work involved to 1) gain approval for a two building historic district; and 2) prepare the CLG application in order to gain annual CLG-funded grants.

The feeling of the group was to stick with the Division of Historical Resource's suggestion of creating a single historic district comprised of the two town buildings on the National Register, Town Hall and the Town Library (stone building) and War Memorial. The building containing the Fire and Police Stations and Town Offices would be designated a non-contributing building within the district and would not fall under any historic preservation criteria.

Jones will contact Amy Dixon and Megan Rupnik of the NH DHR with additional questions; and also will speak with Maggiore. The sub-committee will have another work session and expects to begin work in earnest in February.

74 Ocean Blvd inquiry. Etela had distributed to members communications with a Portsmouth woman whose family (the Murphys) owned the property between 1944 and 1980. The inquirer is most concerned about rumors of the property's sale and demolition of the house. She knew that it is a contributing building in the Little Boar's Head Historic District on the National Register. She also noted that New Castle and Portsmouth appear to have procedures in place to protect such properties.

Etela referred her to the Little Boar's Head Heritage Commission and Little Boar's Head Planning Board. Rob Southworth of the LBH Planning Board responded to the inquirer and sent her the District's Demo Review ordinance.

Additional new business. Update on Rail Trail. Cuetara announced that the Rail Trail is agreed upon and is fully funded by the State. The State will oversee construction and make the allotment of funds, about \$1.5m for North Hampton's portion. The State will try to use local contractors for the work. There will be numerous meetings over the next six to eight months before the construction work gets underway and Hillier noted that volunteers will be needed.

6. Next Meeting Date & Time. A meeting on Dec 20th is unlikely but not ruled out; next meeting definitely is Jan 17, 2019.

7. Adjournment. 11:23am.

Cynthia G. Swank
Recording Secretary