

Approved at 20 Jul 2017
regular meeting



Special Meeting
14 July 2017
Heritage Commission Conference Room
237 Atlantic Ave.

Present:

Paul Cuetara
Jane Currivan
Donna Etela, Chair

Jim Maggiore
Jane Robie
Cynthia Swank

Alternates: Jeff Hilier, Vicki Jones, Nancy Monaghan

Absent: Carolyn Brooks

Also present: Judy Day, Kathy Kilgore, Laurel Pohl

1. Call to Order at 10:34 am

2. NH DOT Bridge Project. Etela recapped the NH DOT email sent to her as Chair by the NH DOT, giving the Commission until July 18th to make recommendations about mitigation. Her acknowledgement and request for additional information resulted in two additional emails providing some examples of mitigation performed in other towns. All the communications had been distributed to members of the Heritage Commission in advance of today's meeting.

Etela had invited Peter Rhoads, owner of a National Register property abutting the Drake's Bridge project. He was not available to attend this meeting.

A lengthy discussion followed among members. There seemed to be agreement about the following points:

-- we do not know the formula NH DOT may be using to determine the amount of funding available for mitigation. Estimated cost of the bridge project is between \$3.0 and \$3.5million.

-- Drake's Bridge, the expected Rail Trail, and changes to the intersecting North and South Roads with Lafayette make it difficult to be particularly precise in any recommendations the Commission may make.

-- we think it important that we and the NH DOT hear from abutters whether an historic property or not.

-- we think it important that the two Rail Trail groups participate in conversations about mitigation where their input and collaboration may be needed.

-- we liked all the mitigation projects noted in the NH DOT communications.

After talking about the range of possibilities, members approved unanimously (Robie moved, Currivan seconded) that the Commission instruct the Secretary to draft a response including the following recommendations:

Create a pocket park along the Rail Trail with appropriate panels that describe the history of the railroad, railroad bridges, and historic resources in the vicinity with particular note of the Drake family.

Salvage some of the 1930s concrete railing for exhibit purposes, possibly incorporated in the outdoor setting.

Prepare a color booklet and an electronic version similar to the Farmington NH one by Lisa Mausolf, based upon prior cited sources, Mausolf's grant-funded town wide area survey (expected completion date Fall 2017), and new research using archival materials that may include images and oral history interviews especially Mary Drake Hale.

Create an interactive map with links to images and information about historic resources. Should coordinate with Rockingham Planning Commission's mapping efforts (Town's historic resources, conservation land, wetlands, etc.).

The Secretary will distribute the draft letter to all members with the request that each responds to her only with comments, corrections; she will be seeing Lisa Mausolf on Monday, July 17, and get her reaction as well. The final will be sent by the Chair to NH DOT by the deadline.

3. Adjournment. 11:32 am.

Cynthia G. Swank
Recording Secretary