

Approved at
19 April 2017 meeting



16 March 2017
Heritage Commission Conference Room
237 Atlantic Avenue

Present:

Paul Cuetara
Jane Currivan
Donna Etela, Chair

Jim Maggiore [arrived 9:57am]
Jane Robie
Cynthia Swank

Alternates: Carolyn Brooks, Jeff Hillier [arrived 9:57am], Vicki Jones

Absent: Nancy Monaghan

1. Call to Order at 9:31am.

2. Treasurer's Report. The balance in the Heritage Fund as of 2/28/2017 is \$4,951.92, 80 cents interest was earned, and the operating budget amount of \$1000 remains. The January and February reports were approved unanimously (Robie moved, Cuetara, seconded).

3. Approval of Minutes. Regular Commission Meeting minutes of January 19, 2017 were approved as prepared. (Cuetara moved, Currivan seconded).

Demo Review Sub-Committee meeting minutes of February 23, 2017 were approved as prepared. (Robie moved, Etela seconded).

4. Old Business

[moved up] **FEMA Grant update.** Consultant Lisa Mausolf is on schedule and about to take photos of Pagetown. She met with Amy Dixon of NH Division of Historical Resources to make sure the final report meets the requirements of the grant. Mausolf also is thinking about her presentation in October.

Eagle Scout Barn Project/Agricultural Commission. Swank gave the spreadsheet with linked images to Joan Ganotis of the Agricultural Commission. Etela spoke with Cindy Jenkins and suggested to her that the Agricultural Commission may wish to make a copy of the Barn Book prepared by the North Hampton Historical Society. Note: Ganotis has reviewed the book and was most impressed.

Cuetara indicated that he has the need for three potential Eagle Scout projects. He reported that the Exeter Road graveyard project is about done.

275th Town Anniversary/HC role. Jones reported that the warrant article to set up a fund in which to put donations was not approved by voters. She will meet with Town Administrator Apple and Finance Director Cornwell to learn how the Town will handle the donations. At present the Historical Society has the money provided by the North Hampton Business Association but she feels as it is a town committee, the funds must be in a town account.

Updates to the planning include: sale of t-shirts with the anniversary logo; sale of Historical Society notecards. Margaret Schoenberger of the Rye Beach/ Little Boar's Head Garden Club suggested sale of its perpetual calendar, and perhaps a plant sale. Having the logo as part of this year's garden design is being considered.

The harvest dinner will be held at Throwback Brewery on Thursday, November 9th. Price per person will be around \$50. The non-denominational service will most likely be the Sunday after Thanksgiving. There may be fireworks.

[9:57 Hillier & Maggiore arrive]

Cuetara noted that he is a member of a Colonial regiment and will check with them about October availability.

Drake's Hill Bridge/Mary Hale Letter. Maggiore spoke with Mary Drake Hale who is one of the abutters to the NH DOT project and had been invited to participate in the meeting in Concord last year which Maggiore had attended. Hale subsequently sent him copies of letters relating to the road and the Drake plaque.

Maggiore also noted that the NH DOT sent its annual report on bridges to the Town. The Drake Hill/ Rt 1 bridge is scheduled for 2021; Cedar Rd is on the list but there is no date assigned yet. He has not received a response from Jill Edelman to his letter. He had no information about the tower status.

5. New Business

Potential Intern. Swank reported that Hillary Christopher, a graduate student at Plymouth State University, is likely to do an internship this spring and summer for the Heritage Commission and Historical Society. She is waiting to discuss the project with her advisor. As an archeology major, she was particularly interested in a archeological dig on the Homestead property involving school children. Cuetara suggested Harold Fernald as a possible source for professional assistance. Other possible internship projects also relate to the Town anniversary.

Barn Easements. Etela distributed Maggiore's answers to questions she posed re the barn easement application and review process. The consensus was that inspections every two years made sense and the most likely person to conduct them was the Building

Inspector or Assistant. Maggiore indicated he would ask that the task be added to the job description of the part-time Code Enforcement Officer.

As far as new barn easement applications , the process this year is: the Town, most likely Jan Facella, receives the application, stamps the receipt date and checks for completeness. The application is then given to the Code Enforcement Officer who checks for complaints / violations. If none, he will pass along the packet within three days to the Chair of the Heritage Commission who distributes copies to members. After site visits, the Commission holds a meeting and makes a recommendation that is sent to the Select Board. The Select Board has sixty days from receipt of the application to render a decision.

[Moved up] **HC 2017 Appointments.** Those members whose terms end in 2017 and all the alternates agreed to another term. Cuetara moved, Currivan seconded a motion to approve the slate. It was approved unanimously. The individuals are:

Donna Etela, 3 years

Jane Robie, 3 years

Carolyn Brooks, 1 year

Jeff Hillier, 1 year

Vicki Jones, 1 year

Nancy Monaghan, 1 year (Planning Board rep)

Etela will contact Apple to put it on the agenda for the next Select Board meeting.

[11 am - Currivan leaves] Jones to vote for Currivan

Demo Review 167 Mill Rd. The house has been demolished. The applicant had indicated he was intending to build a new structure but there is now a "for sale" sign on the property.

Town Hall. George Chauncey, a former member of the Town Hall Committee, gave the Select Board during the opening comments portion of the last Select Board meeting a proposal for re-siding Town Hall. It was not an agenda item and no members of the Heritage Commission, including the former Chair of the Town Hall Committee, were consulted or informed in advance. Thus, no one was in attendance at the SB meeting.

Members were surprised by the proposal. Among the points made during the discussion: both the Commission and CIP Committee considered the scope of the Town Hall repair and maintenance project to be the painting of the building, with clapboards replaced where necessary, not re-siding the entire building; the proposal does not include painting; and the focus was to be on the east and west sides of the building. Swank pointed out it was likely moot for this year because the maintenance fund warrant article failed.

Members were concerned about the misinformation conveyed about a National Register listing during the SB meeting. Jones pointed out that the National Register listing is a carrot, not a stick. A National Register listing makes the Town eligible for grants now and in the future. The fact the building has remained a functioning Town Hall also may help in attracting funding and it was noted that the National Trust has twice highlighted the building on its website. Etela mentioned the value of the listing of both Town Hall and the

original Library (stone) building in terms of economic development, especially with the rail trail expected soon.

It also was noted that the Town Hall Committee had enlisted the assistance of the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance when it began its efforts, and had followed the guidelines for the rehabilitation of historic buildings, having contractors refashion moldings if the originals could not be salvaged; and that the committee had even received a preservation award from the NH Preservation Alliance, presented during the Town Hall Day celebration. As previous stages of the restoration have been done carefully, the sentiment was that this work also should be done with some thought.

[11:09 - Brooks leaves]

Members suggested that the Select Board reactivate the Town Hall Committee. Have an assessment and work plan done; a scope of work prepared; and the usual bid process conducted. Heritage Commission member and former chair of the Town Hall Committee Paul Cuetara and Jeff Hillier were selected to be the Commission's representatives if the Committee comes about. (Etela moved, Jones seconded; approved unanimously).

Swank provided a list of names from the NH Preservation Alliance directory and noted that there are others with the suitable experience to do the work. Etela has information from the NH DHR and Peter Rhoads (Drake Farm) about the type of wood to use; and its availability locally. Maggiore will contact Steve Bedard who in 2015 walked around the building in the company of Paul Apple, Etela, and Swank. Bedard at the time had not suggested any need for wholesale re-siding but only suggested replacement where needed which he indicated may mean some adjoining boards. He also suggested that the plantings in front of the building be moved further away from the foundation.

Ogden Nash. The Little Boar's Head Heritage Commission, as mentioned in a previous Commission meeting, obtained a part of the wallboard from the barn at 44 Ocean Boulevard containing an Ogden Nash rhyme, inscribed name, and drawing. They have donated it to the North Hampton Historical Society.

Rail Trail - Cuetara announced that the State's purchase is close. A regional non-profit has been set up called Seacoast Greenway which will do promotion and marketing; Cuetara and Jeff Latimer are North Hampton representatives. North Hampton Trails is the local non-profit on which he and Hillier serve.

6. Next Meeting Date & Time. Thursday, April 20 at 9:30am.

Adjourned. 11:50am

Cynthia G. Swank
Recording Secretary