

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE COMMISSION
Minutes of May 10, 2014 Meeting

Present: BJ Carbee, Barbara Caskie, Diane Curran, Michele Ferencsik,
Betsy Hardwick, Elly Miles

Others: Betty Behrsing, Lisa Bourbeau, Mike Branley, Scott Carbee,
Polly Freese

As Commission Secretary, Elly Miles opened the meeting.

The minutes of the Heritage Commission meetings for the months of February, March and April 2014 were approved.

Elly read a proposed wording for recognition of Maureen von Roseninge's service on the Heritage Commission. Incorporating suggestions from other members it reads as follows:

The Commission members express their sorrow at the unexpected passing of Maureen von Roseninge. Maureen's extraordinary resolve did much to ensure the success of the structural repair of the Town Hall and the passage of the bond issue to support further restoration. Maureen's energy, dedication, brilliance, enthusiasm and sense of humor will be greatly missed.

There was a review and discussion of LCHIP grant requirements pertaining to the Town Hall. According to Mike Branley and Betsy Hardwick, Round 11 must be concluded before the final grant monies are released and an application for a new grant can be submitted.

Mike has met with an LCHIP representative and offered to continue the process to close Round 11 which includes a 5-year stewardship plan signed by the Board of Selectmen, a final budget and a baseline documentation of the history of the property and building. The Commission accepted his offer to follow through on closing Round 11 with thanks.

It was requested that the Board of Selectmen notify Commission members whenever meetings the Board initiates with LCHIP officials, architects, contractors or others with special expertise are to take place. It was agreed that Mike would notify Elly who would inform the other Commission members.

The LCHIP grant application date has been moved up from October to the end of June which will require expediting a process that normally takes several weeks if not months. Although LCHIP has certain standards that must be met, Betsy reiterated that the renovation design and the plan submitted with the application should reflect what the town needs and wants for the building.

Michele Ferencsik stressed the need for an experienced grant writer to help ensure accuracy and meeting the LCHIP application deadline. She has interviewed Barbara Miller who was recommended by Mike Petrovick and

did some work with Maureen on prior grants. She moved that Barbara Miller be hired to do the LCHIP grant application. Her second motion was that the Commission accept funding for the grant writer in the amount of \$600.00, a donation made by Cecily Houston in memory of Maureen von Rosenvinge. Both motions passed by unanimous vote.

Betsy pointed out that the grant writer has to have specific information to work with including a restoration plan acceptable to LCHIP. Although there is funding support and positive response to Mike Petrovick's revised plan, LCHIP has indicated it might not favor eliminating some historic aspects of the building. Since there is no specific listing of requirements, Mike Branley mentioned that James Garvin, former New Hampshire Architectural Historian, has been recommended as a consultant on historic elements. The motion to hire James Garvin to advise on this aspect of planning passed unanimously. Mike Branley will try and set up an appointment as soon as possible.

There was a motion to amend the previous motion on funding the grant writer. It should read "The Commission votes to accept and pay the grant writer from the Heritage Fund the amount of \$600.00, a donation made by Cecily Houston in memory of Maureen von Rosenvinge."

The Board of Selectmen received a letter expressing interest and expects to appoint a new member to the Commission at their next meeting.

BJ Carbee said she had been contacted by school personnel regarding tours of the Heritage Museum and the FIHS exhibits. It was agreed that Michele will work with FES personnel to arrange tours to occur after school starts again in the fall.

A special meeting of the Commission is scheduled for 5:30 PM on Thursday, June 5, 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elly Miles

