

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE COMMISSION  
Minutes of January 9, 2016 Meeting

Present: Barbara Caskie, BJ Carbee, Diane Curran, Brad Howell, Michele Ferencsik,  
Elly Miles, Lisa Stewart  
Others: Lisa Bourbeau, Scott Carbee, Polly Freese, Warren Kiblin

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM.

Motion by Brad to approve December 12, 2015 minutes as written. Seconded by Diane.  
All in favor.

Motion by Elly to accept Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Michele. All in favor.

Elly summarized current status of fundraising. There are two active grant applications for a total of \$30,000. In researching more trusts and foundations she has found that municipalities are not eligible and most require applicants to be 501 (c)3s. The same is true of the corporate giving programs she has looked into so far.

Lisa B. suggested sending personal notes to current donors for additional donations. Elly said even using the entire Francestown mailing list we would need each household to respond with a donation of over \$400 to make up the shortfall.

Michele said she understood the architect had said that cuts of up to \$50,000 might still be possible so the bottom line is still variable.

Brad questioned how much would the savings really be. He said reductions in one place could lead to costs in others; we should continue to work towards raising as much as possible.

Scott pointed out that the Board of Selectmen had sent a letter to MacMillin on December 21<sup>st</sup> asking them to hold prices through January. Elly read the cc of the letter sent to the Heritage Commission.

Lisa B. said she had spoken with other builders and we should have a true value engineering session where owners and sellers get together for the purpose of agreeing on scope of work based on money available so project can go forward. She knows of several projects where initial contract price was substantially reduced.

Brad said he remembered Mike saying that the GMP was the result of true value engineering sessions and the project had been pared down as much as possible. It was already bare bones and there were also the terms of the LCHIP grant that had to be met.

Michele stated that it was insulting to be asked to raise so much money in 30 days. Elly agreed that even though it was standard procedure for contractors after bids were in, to a lay person it was asking a lot.

Scott says he knows several people who will give but not before construction starts.

Michele said there was no continuing contact with donors; no personal thank you notes were sent and she had complaints that no one is in touch with them.

Diane said she hadn't received any complaints. She also pointed out that the HC is not made up of many people. Commission members are not necessarily acquainted with people with a lot of money to give nor does the Commission have a budget of any significant amount. It is not really equipped for a project of this magnitude; there is no support staff aside from one part-time grant writer.

Lisa S said if people receive calls they know the answers to or where to get them they could take responsibility and respond.

BJ responding to comment that Hancock had a similar project and got it done was that Hancock people were very supportive of all their community projects but Frankestown folks are not.

Scott brought up CIP and money available for community projects.

Lisa S said CIP funding is not a pot of money waiting to be dipped into. The Town, in response to requests, sets aside funds each year for future use. Emergencies, equipment, bridges, roads, etc. may require those funds and supercede other requests. Any expenditure has to be planned and would require a warrant article for approval.. There was agreement that the HC would review needs and actively request support the next planning round.

There was agreement to meet again prior to month-end to try and develop an alternative to an indefinite delay to beginning the project due to the shortfall in funding. For example, we have X amount of money – how can we move forward with that amount? Elly will invite Mike Petrovick to participate. Tentative meeting dates are the 17<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM or the 20<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM depending on his schedule.

The Annual Report was accepted as written with the following addition to the beginning of Paragraph 8: “After the \$350,000 voted for at the 2014 Town Meeting and the December 2014 LCHIP award of \$200,000, the Heritage Commission has raised ...etc.”

Elly said the Town had requested reimbursement for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of preconstruction invoices and requested approval for the check request. Motion by Brad to approve. Seconded by BJ. All in favor.

The next regular meeting of the Heritage Commission will be February 13, 2016 at 9 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 10: 40 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Elly Miles