

HERITAGE COMMISSION (HC)  
TOWN OF HOOKSETT



MINUTES OF MEETING  
March 11, 2008

Members present: Kathleen Northrup, David Bernard, Sally Humphries, James Walter, David Boutin, Carolyn Schroeder. Absent: Paul Loiselle.

Meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m. at Cawley School.

D. Bernard moved acceptance of minutes of 2/13/08; Jim seconded. Minutes approved.

**NEW ITEMS:**

1. David Boutin to review Certified Local Government program material.  
KN Note: The DHR recently won a grant from the National Trust to study a new type of district--Neighborhood Conservation District--for NH, develop a "how-to" manual, and prepare legislation to enable communities to use them. Nationally they have been very popular for a long time; they combine review of changes to key historic features (but less rigorous and inclusive than for standard historic districts) with planning and land-use tools so that residents can have a stronger role in determining the future of their neighborhood, and how they want it to be in the future. DHR will be awarding the contract soon and expect to have the research, manual, and draft legislation by the end of the year, in anticipation of legislative action in 2009. This may be an alternative if the CLG is not feasible.
2. Distributed newspaper clipping from Hollis regarding their efforts and a grant to conduct a historic sites inventory.
- 3 To have the VHS tapes transferred to DVD would cost about \$20 each. The video person says that the combo VHS/DVD machine works well and would probably be cheaper for the number of tapes we have. Kathie will price a VHS/DVD machine.
4. Kathie advised that she found sponsors who will pay up-front costs for a town afghan with the proceeds, after those costs are covered, going to the HC. They have been ordered, and hopefully we will have them ready by town voting, Heritage Day, etc., in May, if not before.

**Review Assignments**

Under old business

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### Head School

D. Bernard and Kathie have been working on finalizing RFPs for Head's and meeting with various contractors. Estimates are needed for the Moose Plate Grant, deadline 3/31/08.

Kathie suggested that the HC should decide what our ultimate goals were for the use of the buildings. Discussion was had of use as a school versus chapel. If we hope to set it up as a school for educational purposes, talked about the work involved, i.e., finding furnishings and school-related materials and implementing a program like Nashua (partnering with some group, developing "curriculum," finding a volunteer teacher, etc.) We'll need to get a new sign for the exterior.

Jim moved to revert to the original use—a schoolhouse. Sally seconded. All approved.

The pews and lectern will have to be removed before spring so interior work can begin. Carolyn volunteered to gather some info on offering them for sale, with the proceeds to be applied to the project.

Kathie will prepare something for the Banner seeking donations of school items.

### State Register of Historic Places

The Congregational Church has declined to pursue listing. There is some interest from the condo association at Mt. St. Mary's. The new owner of the stone house declined to request listing. Kathie has contacted two private homeowners who are reviewing the material. The Holy Rosary Church has been contacted but no response received yet.

### School Project

Kathie met with AP teacher at Cawley. After reviewing the Save Our History grant application and discussing possible projects, it was decided to forego applying for the grant and fund any minimal expenses locally. Suggested the teacher could apply to the HC for assistance with expenses. Discussed possible projects including inventorying and photographing gravestones and researching some of the more prominent names or those with interesting stories in hopes of preparing a walking map/tour. The teacher hopes to start (what might be a multi-year project) later this spring.

### Inventory of Historic Sites

Kathie inquired about progress on the survey of historic sites. Carolyn has completed

writing on the Hooksett Airport. We'll discuss completion of the survey form at our next meeting.

### Barns Project

This project should finally be completed within the next month or two. Sally and Kathie have a few more contacts to make. The finished book will be presented to the town and stored in the NH Room at the library.

### Preservation Month

Kathie had contacted the RCSHPC and HHS about co-sponsoring; no responses. Jim offered to contact them again. Members decided on Saturday, May 17, as the date.

Once we get a yes/no about participation, Kathie will prepare the proclamation and present it to the council.

Discussed briefly having a ceremony recognizing the three recent listings to the State Register. Jim suggested a showing of the 3<sup>rd</sup> oral history film.

### ASSIGNMENTS

1. All - continuing research on assigned historic sites
2. D. Boutin, CLG
3. Kathie, price DVD/VHS machine
4. Kathie, Moose Plate Grant
5. Carolyn, info re selling pews; Kathie, article for Banner
6. Kathie, school project update
7. Sally/Kathie, barns
8. Heritage Day: Jim, confirm participation; Kathie, proclamation to council

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Kathleen Northrup  
Chair  
March 13, 2008

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 8, 2008, 6:45 p.m., at the Library**