

HERITAGE COMMISSION (HC)
TOWN OF HOOKSETT



MINUTES OF MEETING
May 30, 2013

Members present: Kathie Northrup, Jim Sullivan, Scott Riley. Excused: Dave Rogers. This regular monthly meeting had been rescheduled from 5/28/13.

Meeting called to order at 6:45 p.m. at the library.

Scott moved acceptance of the 5/6/13 minutes; Jim seconded. Unanimously approved.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE AND MISCELLANEOUS:

1. Kathie reported on April sales—2 afghans at Clerk's Office; May sales 3 afghans, 2 posters.
2. Kathie presented expenses for approval covering September 2012 through May 29, 2013. Scott moved to pay; Jim seconded. Approved.
3. Harold Murray asked about the date the two fire departments were consolidated. May 1980 Village and South Hooksett combined. Alfred Law from South Hooksett was appointed Chief, Collette from Village assistant chief. Harold is doing a list of all past fire chiefs.
4. 4/24/13 NH House voted 246 to 101 to pass SB 43 regarding taxation of certain historic properties, including our Robie's store. Bill signing is 6/13/13 at 2 p.m.
5. At the request of the NH Preservation Alliance (NHPA), Kathie sent letter of support for LCHIP to the Senate Finance Committee May 9, 2013.
6. Kathie sent email info to members on "Taking Care of Your Town's History" workshop by NHPA, Tuesday, June 18 in Bow, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
7. D. Brotherson, a 4th grade teacher, wants to meet with HC and HHS about developing more local history for her classes.
8. Kathie, 2 schoolmarms, and D. Brotherson attended a one-day workshop in Plymouth on 5/15/13 on *Drawing from the Past*, using comics/graphic art to teach history. We worked on creating a comic using two written remembrances from our oral history collection. Brotherson hopes to do a small project this spring and more in the fall. Kathie showed samples.
9. Decided to hold our June meeting at the Prescott Library.

Review Assignments:

1. Dave, answer to MSM inquiry. Deferred, Dave excused.

OLD BUSINESS:

Indian Murals

Unveiling ceremony was held on Wednesday, May 29, in council chambers where murals have been hung. Excellent turnout, very well received. Many positive comments about the work of the commission, the murals, etc. Copy of program attached.

Heritage Day, May 25

All events were poorly attended. Two people at Head's who were friends of one of the marms, 3 for most of the Robie's storytelling plus a couple others who stopped at the table for a few minutes; 3 at HHS from Bow. No arrangements had been made for entry to the old town hall so nothing was

done there. Our walking tour was cancelled due to the rainy weather. Talked about whether Sunday is better, what we could do next year to draw some people, etc.

Neighborhood Heritage District

Jo Ann Duffy gave an update to the council at their 5/8 meeting on the planning consultant's behalf. Consultant is working on the next step based on input from citizens.

Veterans' Park

Kathie spoke to president of Kiwanis re \$300 earmarked for bench. She wanted to know status of donation as a bench no longer fits in with the plan as it has evolved. He'll bring up possible lifting of the restriction at the 6/24/13 bd meeting.

Discussed boundary between church and town. New memorial adjusted to within town land. Kathie has confirmed maintenance issues with Leo.

DPW is taking over funding the water main tap. We will pay for irrigation materials.

Garden Club will be donating leftovers from 6/8 plant sale and have offered to donate other plants we might want.

Church may offer some volunteers to help with bed/planting.

Granite post for sign was installed 5/16/13.

At 5/6/13 meeting we voted on purchase of the granite marker and benches, \$1600. Kathie has confirmed estimate including delivery and setup and that amount should be adequate. Includes \$200 delivery and setting benches and marker in place. Includes charge to epoxy legs to benches before delivery. DPW will want to epoxy bench to the patio. Swenson will drop post marker into the hole. Custom post marker will take 3-4 weeks for delivery.

Blue Ribbon Fence and Landscaping has completed their work—their donation of labor, equipment, and materials is \$3888.

The estimate for the engraved flag on the front discussed at the last meeting is \$739 not including lettering. Members agreed not to pursue this.

The paver kits are in; Parks and Rec has picked them up and plan to start the new memorial soon.

Kathie submitted letter to the editor asking for donations to help finish the project. Got one \$25 check so far.

Talked about a possible date for the dedication. Decided to try for a Sunday afternoon in September or early October. Sat 9/21 is Old Home Day. Kathie has contacted the pastor of the Congregational Church to see if there are any conflicts during those few weeks.

Fund-Raising

Town Family Feud all set for Thursday, June 13. We have our 8 teams: 2 town employee teams, Lions, Webster Woods, Hooksett-ites, Town Council, Police Department, and Hooksett Republican Committee.

We'll plan time at 6:30 to explain rules to all the teams at once, rather than meet individually.

Kathie secured sponsor—Hooksett Chamber of Commerce.

Jim is getting door prizes. Scott will make a call for the larger prize—a restaurant certificate.

Kathie will do silent auction prep, get change, and bring jar for door prize tickets. She will do name tags, sponsor signs, and programs.

Silent auction—on 2 items we have 2 sets. Will offer 2nd set to the next highest bidder at the highest price.

Jim has made arrangements for tables and other set-up items.

Computer person will play Feud theme music throughout the games—before, when teams come up to play, etc.

Jim will bring a keyboard for the buzzer sound for wrong answers. Strikes will be kept on a white board.

We'll meet at 4:30 on the 12th to work on set-up.

Jim will bring tablecloths to cover top of tables. We'll be using the mural unveiling material for table skirts.

Discussed refreshments. Have items leftover from unveiling. A volunteer has offered to bake cookies. Have water; will get 2 or 3 liters of soda. Kathie will bring paper products.

Checked out the room. The new AV setup will be great.

Drew teams for matchups.

Jim will contact Dave to see if he is planning to attend.

Demolition Review

Scott volunteered to spearhead an upcoming application. He will forward photos and what info he has gathered to other members.

Signed off on 4/29/13 for SNHU properties on Martin's Ferry, North River, and Depot Roads. DRC was Kathie, Jim and Scott. Dave had recused himself.

Under the demo regulation we must make a decision within five (5) business days of receipt of the demolition application as to whether the building might be of historical or architectural significance.

Other

Scott will follow up on sale of student chairs. See 1/22/13 minutes.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. All - Feud planning
2. Kathie, park planning
3. Scott, student chairs

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Kathleen Northrup, Chair
June 1, 2013

Next regular meeting Tuesday, June 25, 2013 - 6:45 p.m., **Arah Prescott Library**

ABOUT THE ARTIST

The artist, William Abbott Cheever, was born in Andover, Massachusetts, in 1907 but had moved to Amherst, New Hampshire, in 1954 where he lived until his death in 1986. He had a studio adjacent to the family home. Known for his portraits of New England society, he was also an accomplished landscape artist, illustrator, and designer.

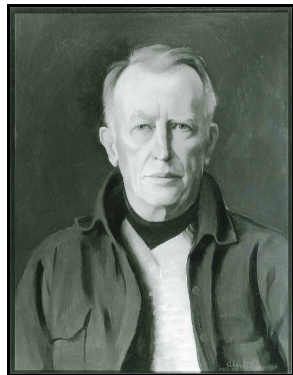
Cheever was a graduate student of the Boston Museum School of Art where he studied fresco painting under Alexandre Iacovleff.

For most of his adult career he taught at the Boston Museum School and Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts. After relocating to New Hampshire he worked in the art department of the Nashua Corporation in Nashua and eventually retired from Hermsdorf Co. in Manchester as art director/designer. It was during his employment with Hermsdorf that the Hooksett murals were created.

In 1940 and 1941 he painted three historical murals during the New Deal era when President Franklin D. Roosevelt was attempting to stimulate the economy. His murals still hang in United States Post Offices in Madison, Connecticut; Smithfield, Virginia; and Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts.

In a review of a 1948 exhibit at the Vose Galleries in Boston, the Christian Science Monitor noted: "There is a quiet independence in his handling of paint. There seems to be a blend of the sophisticated and the primitive. His colors are clear and luminous; his characterizations are human and moving."

A background piece in an ad offering a painting for sale relates this information from someone who interviewed a friend of Cheever: "His accomplishments are long and varied. He even mentioned to his friend that he did a mural for a McDonald's restaurant at one point in his life."

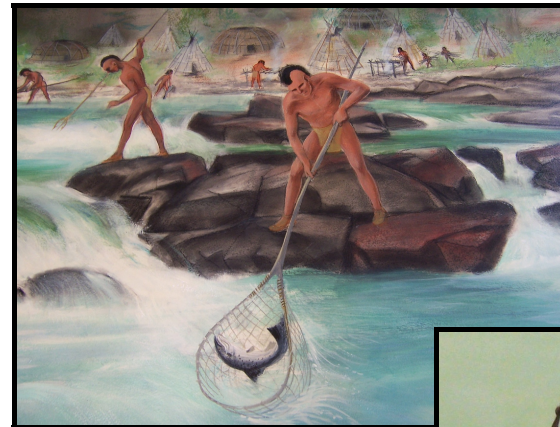


TOWN OF HOOKSETT HERITAGE COMMISSION

UNVEILING OF CHEEVER MURALS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2013

6:00 P.M.



ABOUT THE MURALS

McDonald's built their Hooksett restaurant at the corner of Route 3 and Martin's Ferry Road in 1974. The dining room decor featured two large murals showing Native American life.

When the restaurant was remodeled in 1984 the dining room was redecorated, and Vander Wolk Enterprises, the company who owned the franchise at the time, made a gift of the two paintings to Hooksett schools. One was hung at Underhill and the other at the Village School.

When the Village School closed in 2004 the painting was left behind in what was the library. By 2011 the library had become basement storage; the mural was rescued and moved to a safer location by the Heritage Commission. The smaller mural had hung at the Fred C. Underhill School since 1984. So that the murals could be enjoyed together as they were originally conceived, the school district relinquished ownership and turned the smaller mural over the town.

In 2012 the Heritage Commission applied for a Cultural Conservation Grant administered by the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts for the Department of Cultural Resources. The \$6,300 grant was for the conservation of both murals.

Parma Conservation of Chicago was chosen to do the conservation work. The firm offered an extraordinary level of experience and qualifications. Since 1998 they have conserved over 200 historic murals in municipal buildings, museums, post offices, churches, schools, and residences across the United States including two Cheever murals. They completed their work on site in January 2013. Volunteers for the Heritage Commission repainted the frames replicating the original colors.

In May 2013 the murals were hung in the council chambers of the municipal office building. The unveiling ceremony today is to again welcome the Cheever murals to Hooksett.



Help yourself to refreshments please

Unveiling Ceremony

Welcome

Kathie Northrup, Chair, Heritage Commission

Dean E. Shankle, Jr., Ph.D.

Town Administrator

Van McLeod, Commissioner

New Hampshire Department of Cultural Resources

David R. Boutin

NH State Senator, District 16

Richard A. Boisvert

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State Archaeologist

Peter H. Cheever

Artist's Son

James A. Sullivan

Chair, Hooksett Town Council

Unveiling

Closing Remarks



The Town of Hooksett is supported in part by a grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts & the National Endowment for the Arts.