

HERITAGE COMMISSION (HC)
TOWN OF HOOKSETT



MINUTES OF MEETING

February 23, 2016

(There were no November, December or January meetings)

Members present: Kathie Northrup, Jim Sullivan. Meeting called to order at 6:45 p.m. at the library.

Jim moved to approve minutes of 10/27/15; Kathie seconded. Unanimously approved.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE AND MISCELLANEOUS:

1. Kathie reported on receipts from outlets and mail orders for November thru February.
2. Kathie gave a report to council on 10/28/15 for the period May 2013 to October 2015. Accomplishments summarized. Copy attached.
3. Before Christmas, HC merchandise—sent the brochure out as an announcement from website, members emailed to contacts, added link on first page of town website, added to Historical Society's FB and web page.
4. Kathie offered to work with the Conservation Commission to prepare historical info for kiosk and other signage at Pinnacle Park. Also told HCC that the HC would be happy to participate in any dedication they may plan.
5. J. Donison, town engineer, has asked the HC to update the historical resources section of the Master Plan. Anticipate completion of this update this calendar year.

Review Assignments:

1. Kathie, continue conversion of oral history tapes. Have converted one as a sample to review. Jim will test it out.
2. Kathie, draft Cat's Meow for bridge. No progress.
3. All, meeting regarding monuments done. See Old Business below.

NEW BUSINESS:

Heritage Day

Kathie has contacted the HHS, Head School Society, Robie's Country Store Historic Preservation Corp., and Robie's Country Store's new operators. Have not heard from most on a preference for a date so agreed with Robie's Country Store Historic Preservation Corp. on Saturday, May 21.

HC will co-host open house at old town hall with the Town Hall Preservation Committee, providing the building can be made accessible depending on how work is progressing. Hopefully we'll have a lot of progress to show guests.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lilac Bridge

This month reviewed “for sale” documents and preliminary design alternatives . Attended council meeting 2/17/16 for presentation by engineers of preliminary design. Council meeting on 2/24/16 will hear further public input and the council’s vote on the preliminary design including recommendations by the HC as a consulting party.

Posted and held a meeting for 2/22/16 to formulate our recommendations. See Minutes.

Monuments at Veterans’ Park

Kathie met with Dean 11/2/15 for guidance on the scope of the project and our responsibilities regarding two requests for additional monuments at Veterans’ Park. Dean thought the HC was the appropriate group to handle this task because of the historical component. Kathie accepted the project based on that.

Council had asked for a plan of the area. When we did the initial rehab we laid out a plan for the new garden, “thanks to all” memorial, and the new cul-de-sac area, but we did not have a formal document. We have asked a volunteer surveyor to work on a plan for Veterans’ Park. The town engineer will do one for The Point at Nadeau Memorial Square as a possible alternative. The Point is State property so that must be clarified.

Kathie is also exploring the original “first town meeting held here” marker that was at the site of Nadeau Square. It ended up on the lawn of the HHS when the road was reconfigured but may want to be relocated as part of the larger project.

Kathie visited the State Veterans’ Cemetery in Boscawen. She contacted Frank Silva of the Legion who had proposed a Gold Star Mothers monument. Kathie asked if they’d consider including Blue Star, families, etc. to consolidate future monuments to similar groups. Silva has to bring it up at a Legion board meeting. Have not heard back.

Kathie has contacted the church to reaffirm 2013 agreement regarding the boundary. The eastern part of the park does not belong to the town.

Merchandise

Kathie suggests adding 1892 map of Hooksett to merchandise line. Jim agreed. Same size and packaging as collage posters. \$15.

Kathie met with the new operators at Robie’s. They would like to continue selling our merchandise; very favorable terms. We agreed to place our merchandise there, as much or as little as they would like. The Clerk’s Office continues to carry several items.

OTHER:

Discussed outstanding invoices for merchandise. Kathie will follow up with Town Administrator.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Jim, test oral history DVD
2. Kathie, draft Cat's Meow for bridge
3. All, monuments
4. Kathie, Heritage Day planning
5. Kathie, continue conversion of oral history tapes
6. Kathie, prepare maps for sale

Adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Kathleen Northrup, Chair
March 20, 2016

Next regular meeting Tuesday, March 22, 2016 - 6:45 p.m., at the Library

HOOKSETT HERITAGE COMMISSION

Status Report to Council
May 2013 to date (Oct 2015) and ongoing

Hooksett Heritage Day/NH History Week

- ▶ Cosponsored with Historical Society, Robie's Country Store Historic Preservation Corp., and Head School Society the 9th through 11th annual Hooksett Heritage Days in May 2013-2015. HC participation: walking tours and co-hosting at old town hall.
- ▶ Participated in 3rd, 4th, and 5th annual NH History Week in October 2013-2015 with Historical Society, Library, Head School Society, Robie's Country Store Historic Preservation Corp. and Lions Club. HC events: dedication of Veterans' Park, dedication of historic marker at Mount Saint Mary's, and dedication of historic marker at Hooksett Airport.
- ▶ Participated in Old Home Day 2014, 2015

Head School

- ▶ Head School Society continues to offer their living history experience. During this reporting period, welcomed over 950 scholars and other visitors.
- ▶ Obtained volunteer services of an arborist to check the silver maples on the southern boundary of Head Cemetery and the catalpa trees around the school.

Fund-Raising

- ▶ Added travel mugs, t-shirts, and Cat's Meow collectibles of old Town Hall and Mount Saint Mary's to our merchandise line. Proceeds will go to the Town Hall Preservation Project.
- ▶ Second Town Family Feud June 2013 to benefit the Veterans' Park project
- ▶ Third Town Family Feud June 2014 to benefit Town Hall Preservation Project

Demo Permit Applications

- ▶ Considered five demo permit applications

Historic Marker Program

- ▶ Completed the research and installed 7th, 8th, and 9th historic roadside markers—Mount Saint Mary's, Lincoln Park, Hooksett Airport

Veterans' Park

- ▶ Finished this project; it consumed much of our time in 2013. About 170 people attended the dedication ceremony held on October 6, 2013. It was moved to the Legion because of inclement weather. One attendee wrote: "I don't think the rain had any effect on the spirit and the pride that filled the room yesterday. As both a citizen of Hooksett and a veteran, THANKS!" Another said: "It was a distinct honor and privilege to have been a part of this dedication. As a twenty-two year veteran, I was very proud of the program that you put together."
- ▶ Assisted in design of POW/MIA granite chair for Veterans' Park.

Education/Other

- ▶ Participated in the process regarding the future of the Lilac Bridge after it was found to have severe structural problems.
- ▶ Participated in an Osler Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) two-part program in May 2015 with the Head School Society schoolmarms titled "Live and Learn: Become an 1840s Scholar." The commission presented Part 1 of the program covering the rehabilitation of the Head School building.
- ▶ Co-sponsored a program in September 2015 with the Library: "On This Spot Once Stood . . . Remembering the Architectural Heritage of NH." Humanities Council program. Included information about Hooksett's historic marker program.

ONGOING PROJECTS

Hope to reprint several smaller histories into one consolidated history book
Continue conversion of oral history videos to DVDs; work on reviewing transcripts
Continue verifying names of files and scanning of thousands of photos