

Lee Heritage Commission Minutes of Meeting of April 18, 2013

Present:

Members: Laura Gund, Denis Hambucken, Patricia Jenkins (Chair), David Meeker, Preston Samuel

Ex Officio: David Cedarholm, Board of Selectmen

Visitor: Laurel Cox

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on March 21, 2013, approved as written.

UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Town Library Site Chosen: P. Jenkins reported that the BOS voted to site the planned new Library complex on the bluff overlooking Little River Park.

Town Office Copy Policy: Phyllis White of the Lee Historical Society reported that she was prevented from using the Town's copier, with her own paper, by an exceedingly high charge. The consensus of the Commission was that this matter should be discussed with the Town's officials.

Estaver House: L. Cox presented a detailed history of the house and property prepared in 1983.

Town Center Committee: D. Cedarholm stated that he hopes to revive the TCC with a larger focus on historical issues within the Town.

Work Sessions: There will be work sessions on Tuesday mornings at 9am for those members of the Commission able to attend. The current focus is the continuation of the review of Joe Ford's papers.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lee History Trail: P. Samuel has prepared a powerpoint presentation, and asked D Hambucken to test-run a disk containing the presentation and to coordinate the computer/overhead projector for the evening of the presentation. If the test run is satisfactory, P. Samuel will ask the Town Administrator to put us on the Selectmen's next available agenda. After the presentation, P. Samuel will seek the assistance of R. Stevens in setting sign posts in the field.

Preserving Lee Town Center: D. Hambucken expressed his concern that the planned location for the Town's Library and possible Town offices will lead to the loss of the concept of "Town Center". He feels that some historical site or building is needed to maintain a historical perspective. L. Cox and others suggested that the Jeremiah Smith Grange building could serve that purpose. The Grange would like to give the building to the Town however there is a possibility that should the Grange stop holding meetings there the NH State Grange would assume responsibility for the building and seek to find a buyer for it. It was agreed that the Commission should, with highest priority, join with the Jeremiah Smith Grange in preserving the building for the use of the Town.

Burley-Demerritt Farm House: In a recent meeting with UNH officials P. Jenkins and Robert Mohnihan spoke for the need to maintain the house in accordance with the agreement giving UNH title to the property. B. Mohnihan spoke of the possibility that student classes or groups interested in historical reconstruction might be used on the site. There followed a considerable discussion of the history of the relationship between the Heritage Commission and UNH relating to the house.

NEW BUSINESS:

2014 Heritage Commission Calendar: A number of themes for the calendar were discussed. Among those were: Historical Farms of Lee, Draft Animals of Lee, Animals of Lee, and Lee's Snowplows.

Mills of Lee: The procedure and source of funds for the publication of Randy Steven's research on the Mills of Lee. The book was originally started with Dick Wellington but with his death Randy assumed the major responsibility for the research and writing. His current draft is under review by D. Wellington's daughter who lives in Australia. There was some discussion of a publication in two parts. P. Jenkins and L. Gund will discuss the matter with R. Stevens.

Farms of Lee: Following the discussion above L. Gund discussed her plans for a companion book "The Farms of Lee". D. Hambucken volunteered to help her with the project.

Historical Neighborhoods: D. Cedarholm reported that Nadine Peterson of the NH Division of Historic Resources has expressed interest in helping Lee to establish “historical neighborhoods” at one or more sites in the Town. A meeting will be scheduled so that she can visit the possible sites followed by a meeting with the Heritage Commission. D. Cedarholm will arrange the visit and the subsequent meeting.

NEXT MEETING: May 16, 2013

Recorded By:

David Meeker