

Heritage Commission Meeting Minutes
Londonderry, New Hampshire
September 27, 2012

In attendance: Chairman Commissioner Arthur Rugg, Vice-Chairman Commissioner Jim Schwalbe (7:03 – 8:45), Commissioners Tom Bianchi, David Colglazier, Sue Joudrey, Martin Srugis and Alternate Commissioners Pauline Caron, Janet Cichocki, and Town Planner Cynthia May.

Absent: Town Council Ex-officio Jim Butler.

Chairman Art Rugg Called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Sunnycrest Meeting Room of the Town Hall.

Chairman Rugg appointed Alternate Commissioner Caron to vote for Vice-Chairman Jim Schwalbe.

Alternate Commissioner Caron moved and Commissioner Joudrey seconded a motion to approve the minutes for July 26, 2012. The motion passed 4-0-2. Commissioners Bianchi and Srugis abstained because they were not at the July meeting.

Town Planner May said that the American Tire sign application was not ready and that they would make a presentation at the November meeting.

Peter Hicks of Whittemore Insurance made a presentation for a new sign at 172 Rockingham Road. The sign is a two-column type with a signboard between the uprights and is over a rustic dressed stone foundation. The columns are white vinyl, square section with trim pieces and panels and ball finials. The rectangular signboard has a slightly raised curved crest across the top. The top portion has a dark red background and white, translucent letters. There is internal lighting. There are three lines of white blank space for letters below the upper section. A drawing of the sign and a specification sheet were supplied by the applicant. Mr. Hicks said that the drawing included space for two tenant spaces at the bottom.

Commissioner Srugis asked about the building that goes with the sign. He was told that it was mostly white with green trim.

Commissioner Joudrey asked about the message board area at the bottom. She was told that it was translucent white.

Commissioner Bianchi asked about the tenant signs. He was told that they would not have any internal illumination. Bianchi liked the design.

Commissioner Colglazier advised the applicant that he should use reverse letters for the changeable message area. Colglazier told the applicant that these were moveable letters that had black or opaque backgrounds and translucent characters. There are blank section pieces that are placed between the letters and at the ends of the lines to block the light.

Commissioner Schwalbe asked about the base stone. He was told that it was real stone.

The Commission recommended the application.

Deanna Mele, a member of the Londonderry Dog Park Committee, appeared before the Commission. She attended the July Commission meeting because she thought that Dot Grover was going to be there to talk about sighting for the park. Now, Ms Mele is coming to the Commission as a private citizen. She does not feel that the Dog Park Committee's choice of a Sanborn Road property is the best. As a member of the Committee, Mele was the only dissenting vote for the Sanborn location.

Mele liked the FAA Property and some area adjacent to the Town Common as better sites for the park.

Commissioner Schwalbe said that he had been to several parks and they were not generally centrally located because not all people like dog parks.

Alternate Commissioner Caron said that she had heard that the Elder Affairs Committee had spoken for the right to use the Sanborn Road property and that they were awaiting the results of soil tests that were due soon.

Chairman Rugg said that he has a brief communication¹ from Dot Grover about the Dog Park and that Deanna Mele was not in favor of its Sanborn location vote. Rugg advised Mele that we would take her opinion into consideration should the issue come before the Commission. He thanked her for coming to the meeting.

Commissioner Tom Bianchi made a presentation of his draft of his Londonderry Architectural Guide. It provided headings such as “Big Box Store” and some examples of what ones looked good for any application in town. He was trying to fold this document into the Master Plan format, but realized that it could stand on its own. It was suggested that he not try to align it to sections of codes in the town to avoid the need to update it when a code might change. Also, his format allows for changes and additions as time proceeds.

The Commission thought that he was on the right track to produce a valuable guide. Bianchi said that he would make a few refinements and then circulate the draft for comments by the individual members. All comments are to be in a single channel format between the respondent and Bianchi to avoid violation of meeting regulations.

Town Planner May presented her draft for stonewall protection regulations. Different Commissioners made suggestions about alterations to the draft. The Commission discussed several aspects of old and new stone walls with regards to regulations. May said that she would make changes in the draft. She noted that the regulation could include drawings and images to help explain it. Chairman Rugg granted May’s request to leave at 8:25 since this was her third late night that week.

Commissioner Colglazier said that he had revised the first section of the proposed legislation after talking with Jennifer Goodman, Director of the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance. This section tries to provide more support for the legislation by noting that the preservation of old residences preserves the labor and material resources used in the construction.

Colglazier said that he had also modified the grading structure to allow for an applicant to fail to obtain any assessment reduction, that would be allowed in the legislation. He said that the structure of the program should discourage an unworthy applicant from applying for the reduction, but it should not stop a property owner from making an application.

Colglazier said that he had taken a copy of the revised draft to the New Hampshire Division of Historic Resources to seek their comment about the program. He met with the Director, Elizabeth Muzzey and left another copy for Peter Michaud, National Register, Preservation Tax Incentives & Covenants Coordinator.

Chairman Rugg spoke briefly about the prospect of having an engraved brick available for someone who wanted to memorialize someone on the Common. It was decided that there was a need for some good, permanent seating on the Common and that a memorial could be facilitated through that mechanism.

The Commission agreed to limit picnic tables on the Common to six until next year.

Commissioner Srugis asked about the Master Plan and how the Town Common would be affected by some of the drawings and plans in the draft. Chairman Rugg said that there needed to be more explanation about this area of the Master Plan. Rugg said that he did not think that any changes in the Common areas would take place within the next 20 years. Srugis noted that there will be a Master Plan workshop on October 24th.

Alternate Commissioner Caron moved and Commissioner Joudrey seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed 6-0-0 at 8:58 PM.

David Lee Colglazier,
Secretary

ⁱ Hi Art,

Thanks for sharing the agenda with me.

If I can get a ride, I will try to be there.

For the record, I need to make you aware that although Deanna may be attending the meeting to discuss the dog park, she is NOT speaking for the Committee. The Committee has voted to pursue the Sanborn Road property as its first choice.

Deanna has made it quite clear to us that she is not happy with that decision but she was the only dissenting vote, so we are moving forward.

Take care,

Dottie Grover

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