

Heritage Commission Meeting Minutes
Londonderry, New Hampshire
July 23, 2009

In attendance: Chairman Commissioner Arthur Rugg, Commissioners David Colglazier, John Dahlfred, Sue Joudrey, Alternate Commissioner Lara McIntyre, Councilor Michael Brown, and Town Planner Tim Thompson.

Absent: Commissioners Debra Paul, Jim Schwalbe, Alternate Commissioners Tom Bianchi and Pauline Caron.

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

Chairman Rugg appointed Alternate McIntyre to vote for Commissioner Paul.

Commissioners Dahlfred moved and Joudrey seconded a motion to accept the meeting minutes of May 28, 2009. Motion passed 6-0-0.

Planner Thompson noted that the presenter tonight had not submitted plans to the Planning Board, but had been before the Commission before. Plans are to be submitted which is why we are reviewing the information.

Kent Worden, of ARENCO, made a presentation for an addition to the Workout Club, map 7, lot 40-12. The new plan for the addition is to make it smaller thus requiring fewer parking spots. The exterior plan that was presented had off-white synthetic stucco, per a sample, above a level of brick. The walls of the addition were also off-white insulated metal clad material. The windows are a blue tinted architectural glass. A sample of the glass was shown.

The Commissioners asked about planting, lights, and signage. Mr. Worden addressed and answered each of the concerns. As a whole the Commission was pleased with the design as presented. A verbal recommendation was made for the design approval to be passed along to the Planning Board.

Planner Thompson noted that with fewer parking spots there would be less disruption to the land since walls and terraces would not be needed.

Chairman Rugg noted Paul Dionne from Derry postponed a presentation until September.

Chairman Rugg talked briefly about the legislation HB246. The State Architectural Historian, James Garvin, was interested in supporting the legislation in a different form. Rugg noted that he was interested in pursuing this matter and that the Commission should work on it. He delegated this task to Colglazier, Dahlfred and Thompson.

Commissioner Colglazier presented a table of 14 properties from the Londonderry Historic Properties Preservation Task Force list. These were samples of about every eleventh property from the list order. He made a table of the tax assessments of the house, land and extra features from the assessor's records. A table was made to show the reduction of the assessment for one property that was almost the average of the 14 samples. The house value was reduced by 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25% and the corresponding taxes calculated. A separate column was created to show the tax savings for the listed reductions.

Another table was made for the average house value and its tax reductions calculated.

A third table was calculated to show the total tax reduction if all 139 properties were to have tax reductions based upon the average of the 14 samples.

Colglazier note that the criteria for giving the assessment reductions was going to be the hard part to define and evaluate for all of the properties from the standpoint of a person making the evaluations. He also noted that much more work was obviously needed to produce some good working legislation.

Commissioner Dahlfred and Councilor Brown noted that with the historic barn program only a few of the owners had bothered to go through the tax reduction process which was somewhat lengthy.

Planner Thompson said that the legislation in HB246 was not presented fairly in that the local option feature was somehow forgotten or certainly downplayed by the opponents.

Commissioner Dahlfred reported on the good progress in the erection of the 1725 Perry house at 140 Pillsbury Road. The house foundation was dug on July 20th and 21st. The concrete footings were poured on the 23rd. He said that the contractor for the house was having some new sills made and that he, Bob Pothier, hoped to start work in mid-August.

Chairman Rugg asked about grants being available for work on the Grange Hall. At the moment none were known to exist that were outright grants.

Chairman Rugg said that a member of the Pillsbury family was interested in donating a landscape painting to the Town. He will follow up on this possible gift with the donor.

Commissioner Joudrey asked about refurbishing the Apple Way signs that have faded quite a bit. Chairman Rugg asked about getting the original grant specifications and then seeing about the costs for the refurbishing. Once we have the information some decision can be made about how to get them redone. Councilor Brown will follow up with Town Manager Caron to get the information about this project.

Chairman Rugg said that he would see about getting the temporary Remax sign on the common replaced with something smaller in the future. The sponsor of the concerts, Remax, will be approached to see if the sign can be less overpowering in the future.

Commissioners Colglazier moved and Joudrey seconded the motion to adjourn at 7:55. Motion approved 6-0-0.

David Lee Colglazier
Secretary