

Heritage Commission Minutes
April 11, 2002

The regular meeting of the North Hampton Heritage Commission was held on April 11, 2002, at 10:00 A.M., at the North Hampton Library, with Jane Palmer serving as chairman pro tem. Others present were Barbara Hobby, alternate; Penelope Kennedy, proposed alternate; Jenifer Landman, selectman, representative; Priscilla Leavitt; Peter Parker, proposed commissioner; Pamela Schwotzer, library representative; Robert Southworth; and Jane Meneghin.

Pam Schwotzer confirmed that Howard Smith had indeed given the computer to the Commission. She also reported that she has a disk containing the town inventory, in her office.

Priscilla Leavitt reported that the Historical Society wrote a letter to Shaw's in regard to financial support for the reprint of the walking tour brochure.

Jenifer Landman introduced Penelope Kennedy and Peter Parker as the new nominees for membership in the Commission.

Bob Southworth brought the newly framed New Hampshire Preservation Alliance Award for Honorary Mention certificate that had been awarded last year to the Commission for producing the "North Hampton Heritage Walks" brochure.

Jane Palmer offered the nominations of Peter Parker for a three-year term; Jane Meneghin for a three-year term; Penelope Kennedy for a one-year term, as alternate; and Barbara Hobby for a one-year term, as alternate. Bob Southworth moved that the nominations be closed, and the motion was adopted. Jenifer requested that a letter of recommendation for the appointments be written and given to the Planning Board by their next meeting, April 15th. Upon approval, the PB will submit the request for appointment to the Board of Selectmen. The appointees would then be notified by the Town Administrator to take the oath of office.

Jane P. asked for old business:

Jenifer reported that we have 2505 walking tour brochures remaining, including the 100 that she was then giving to Peter and Penelope. Peter and Penelope accepted 25 each, so Jenifer returned 50 to stock. The new total of brochures in stock is 2455, not counting the supplies at the library, the town office, and in the custody of members.

Treasurer Barbara Hobby reported that the bank balance is \$194.49— money received from sale of the brochures. The bills that have been submitted today will go against the \$500.00 budget allotted to us from the town. We have \$500.00 remaining in our treasury from this past year, to serve us for the rest of this term; however, we can request to have what remains in our treasury carried over into next year's term. We failed to request a \$1,000.00 budget for next year.

Jane P. asked if our e-mails are considered legal. No authoritative answer was given.

Bob gave us the new stamps and inkpad that he had purchased for the Commission.

Bob handed out a copy of his report, entitled Report II, to each person, suggesting that each person take his copy home, look it over, and submit any additions or comments to him in writing. He explained that he is offering Report II as a follow-up to the Commission's Report I—the walking brochure. If the members approve his Report, and approve expenditure in the neighborhood of two or three hundred dollars, he will act on it. There was some discussion about who would receive copies of Report II. It was suggested that only a few copies would be printed and given to the library, school, some town officials, and to each member of the commission.

In order to guide us in another of our projects, Bob showed the group his notebook, comprising aerial photographs of houses in Little Boar's Head, that he took, along with his written descriptions of those houses, which included the chain of title and the significance of that house's inclusion.

Pam and Jane P. showed the group the arrangement of the library's collection of the town house files. Pam reported that the library staff's goal was to have in the library a file composed of descriptions of every

house in town. Jane P. reported that those persons who had worked on this house file project in the past had had a poor response from the house owners to whom the library's questionnaire forms had been given. And that beyond the 1892 map, they had not been able to document the ages of the houses. Jane P. had gotten as far as 1940 because that was the last map, for a while, and then she went to 1985. Hence, there are no new house developments included in the house files; Little Boar's Head was not included; only through 1985 has been done. Jenny suggested that we need to focus on the old houses first because they could be torn down.

Peter reported that Mike Iafolla's ZBA records will be placed in the new storage area over the police station, and will be accessible upon request; therefore, we can continue to document houses. Forrest Griffin's files are already over the police station, as is an inventory of what is being stored there now. There are some things there from the Planning Board, but not a complete file. Krista says that eventually the files will be arranged by address; there will be a street file; and there will be a reference file for map and lot. And she hopes that the ZBA files will be integrated with the PB files. Jane P. pointed out that our problem is that of getting the dates from after 1892 to 1940. Henry Mixter has Conservation Commission files at his home that he believes to be duplicates, but he will allow the town to sort through the material in case there is one-of-a-kind information within his collection.

Bob said that it is important that someone ascertain whether the town has a complete set of the Town Report. It was reported that this year's Town Report was dedicated to Priscilla. Priscilla has some of the town maps. The Historical Society has a collection of the Town Report, starting at 1880, with several missing. The library has the Women's Club project of 1941, which includes descriptions of some of the town's old houses and families.

Jenny reported that the North Hampton Forever Committee is focusing on the preservation of local farms. The cabinet that used to be in the town office is now stored in the new space above the police station. Delores Chase has the Boston Post Cane. There was discussion about what the qualifications should be in order to be eligible to hold the cane.

Peter recommended that one copy of every publication produced by the Heritage Commission and by the Historical Society be sent to the New Hampshire Historical Society, in Concord. Jane M. suggested that a record be kept of what is sent to where.

Jenny reported that she is trying to arrange a meeting with Delores Chase and Peggy Neves in order to discuss what town office space they will need. Then it can be decided whether there will be space in the lobby to place display racks, which could hold pamphlets and reference material of local clubs, societies, and businesses. The Historical Society has given Jenny a letter, stating that it will provide a historical display for the area that will be vacated by the Town Administrator, Administrative Assistant, Planning and Zoning Secretary, and Recreation Director. Jenny described future plans for use of the town office. There was more discussion about the condition of available storage space.

Peter voiced concern about:

- (1) There is more stuff still floating around that would more than fit the space above the police station and the space in the town offices.
- (2) There will be insurance concerns involved in the exhibits that should be addressed.
- (3) The HC and the HS should create a protocol for deciding what the exhibits will be composed of.
- (4) The HC and the HS ought to put together a two-, three-, or five-year schedule of exhibits.
- (5) Peter offered to sketch out some sort of protocol, and will bring it to the next meeting.

Pam requested that we each look over the house questionnaire forms before the next meeting so that we can then redesign the present form. Also, she announced two library programs that will be coming up—An Evening with Walt Whitman, next week; and the celebration of the anniversary Ogden Nash's birth, next August.

Penelope will begin to research a house, beginning with one of the houses on the list of 100-year-old houses in town.

The next meeting will be held May 16, 2002, at 10:00 A.M., at the NHPL.
The meeting adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

Jane Meneghin, Secretary pro tem