

## HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

### 19 September 2002

The meeting of the Heritage Commission was called to order at 10:00 A.M., in the North Hampton library. Present were Chairman Jane Palmer, Barbara Hobby, Selectmen Jenifer Landman, and Jane Meneghin.

The form of the meeting was that of a brainstorming session, with the main theme being:

- 1) how relevant the Heritage Commission is, and
- 2) whether or not anyone really cares about what the HC is trying to accomplish.

It was pointed out that not only is it difficult to get articles in the *Hampton Union*, but also that there seems to be no groundswell of interest from the townspeople. Chairman Jane said that the town Planning Board does care about what the HC does, and that the HC members appreciate that fact.

After much discussion, the Commission recommended to Jenifer Landman that the selectmen put in place a set of procedures to notify all town boards, committees, and commissions before they, the selectmen, carry out any projects that involve change to town property. So voted 3-0.

Member Penelope Kennedy has notified the HC that she will have to resign. It was voted 3-0 not to accept her resignation.

Jane Palmer recommended that we create a booklet about farms in North Hampton during the 1930's and 1940's, to follow up on the Historical Society's exhibit that was presented during Old Home Day. We would work with Priscilla Leavitt on this project.

The town's building inspector will try to obtain from the fire insurance companies maps that reflect the locations of houses at the turn of the nineteenth century. Our work will continue on houses from 1892-1902 when a map becomes available. Jenifer Landman is working on this.

Jane Palmer will submit the Heritage Commission Master Plan Review to the Planning Board, which will include the following:

- 1) Purpose: to identify, educate, and promote the preservation of historic buildings and sites. The Commission is in compliance with RSA 674:44, with five members and two alternates.
- 2) Projects completed: list of historic homes on 1857 and 1892 maps, identified by map lot number and street address.
- 3) Identified four historic areas of North Hampton.
- 4) Publications written by R.A. Southworth, approved by Commission: "Windows of the Past" and "A Spell of Knowin'."
- 5) Published a brochure on four walking tours of the town, highlighting special interests, with brief descriptions.

Ongoing Projects:

- 1) Identifying houses between 1892 and 1902, for which we do not have a map.

Future Projects:

- A booklet about farms in the 1930's and 1940's
- A permanent heritage center and historical museum

A room in the old town office has been designated for the sole use of the Heritage Commission, providing both a meeting place and a storage area. The town will provide the funds for the renovation of the room.

The vacant position on the Commission was discussed. The consensus of the members was that we should have a representative from Centennial Hall, for the Hall is one of two public historic buildings in town and a part of Town Common. Jane Palmer will invite Ben King, project manager of Centennial Hall, to join the HC.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15. The next meeting will be Thursday, 24 October 2002, at 10:00 A.M., at the NHPL.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Meneghin, secretary