

North Hampton Heritage Commission
Meeting
August 3, 2006

Location: North Hampton Town Office, Heritage Conference Room

Commissioners Present:
Jenifer Landman, Chair
Jane Currivan, Vice-Chair
Carolyn Brooks, Treasurer
Paul Cuetara
Ben King, Alternate
Penny Kidd, Secretary

Commissioners Absent:
Donald Gould, Selectman
Jane Palmer, Alternate

The meeting was called to order at 9:38 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

- February 16, 2006: Motion to accept by Jane Currivan, seconded by Ben King, unanimous acceptance.
- March 16, 2006: Motion to accept by Ben King, seconded by Jane Currivan, unanimous acceptance.
- May 25, 2006: Motion to accept as amended by Carolyn Brooks, seconded by Paul Cuetara, unanimous acceptance.

Treasurer's Report

Carolyn is not receiving a copy of the bank reconciliations from Jane Facella. Jenny will write to have this document mailed to Carolyn by the tenth of each month. The discrepancy in the balance was due to the cost of the authorized camera purchase. The Heritage Commission's cash maintained by Carolyn at her residence now totals \$218. Jenny reported that the petty cash was exhausted due to copy expense and was to be reimbursed by the Heritage Commission.

Access to Town Records

Heritage Commission research is being impaired by the lack of access of its commissioners to public records at the Town Offices. A letter from the Board of Selectmen is required to establish that access and for the Heritage Commissioners to utilize the copy machines for official business.

Town Newsletter

Proposed copy for the Town Newsletter for an article about the Heritage Commission's mission and current project was reviewed and modified, as follows:

The North Hampton Heritage Commission was organized in May 1997 by town vote. Under the guidelines of RSA 674:44, the Commission is

to identify and promote preservation and appreciation of historic buildings and sites. Members research, record and inventory historic resources, assist the Planning Board as requested, advise local agencies and boards and coordinate activities with service and non profit groups. The Heritage Commission prepares various reports on local history, and is currently working on documenting the homes over 100 years old. Another project involves writing short histories on famous people who lived in North Hampton for publication. A copy of the "North Hampton Heritage Walks" brochure is available at the library and town office. This was published as a collaborative effort of the North Hampton Historical Society, Little Boar's Head Heritage Commission and the North Hampton Heritage Commission.

Heritage Commission Projects – Famous People

A preliminary format for the short form of the histories was established. This would include a picture of the person (if available, or historical marker), date of birth (and place, if known), date of death (and place buried, if known), the North Hampton address, and a brief summary of notable achievements of this outstanding person. If possible, a picture of the residence should also be included. The documents need to be in an electronic format to be placed on the Town's website. A sampling of the format was provided to the Commissioners (without residence photos) for Malvina Hoffman, Huntley Nowel Spaulding, Fannie Ward, Col. Abraham Drake, John Hobbs, Alvan Fuller, and Herbert Philbrick.

Jenny introduced a one (legal-sized) page black-and-white brochure to demonstrate the project to townspeople as a handout at the upcoming election in November. Approximately 14 individuals could be shown in this document. Paul recommended that the text will be right and left justified to be more easily read.

Old Home and Barn Being Razed

The Dustin home on the corner at Winnicutt Road is being razed. The Jean Booker barn on Winnicutt Road is also being razed due to extreme disrepair. Jane Currivan will photograph these buildings as soon as possible.

Meeting Attendance

At this point, 10:20 a.m., two Commissioners asked to be excused to attend to other business: Jane Currivan and Ben King.

Town Hall Preservation Project

Paul Cuetara has conducted extensive research to identify resources and funding for the preservation and restoration of Town Hall. The Governor has signed a bill to make available \$2 million for the restoration of town hall structures in the state.

Ben King met with the Committee. The Committee is without a Chairman and is not holding meetings. Paul Cuetara would like to serve as Chairman. A letter to the Board of Selectmen is needed to ask that the Town Hall Committee meet before September 15th.

Paul Cuetara made a motion for the letter to be sent; Carolyn Brooks seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The letter should read as follows:

In a recent meeting, the Heritage Commissioners discussed concern that the Town Hall Committee has not met as recorded by the Heritage Commission representative. It is our understanding that one of the issues is that no one on the Committee is willing to Chair this very important working group.

One of our members has taken it upon himself to do research on available resources to plan and implement the preservation, conservation, and restoration of Town Hall. These resources include contractors with special expertise in this area and a variety of funding specifically designed for Town Halls in the state of New Hampshire.

The Heritage Commissioner who is willing to serve on the Town Hall Committee as Chair is Paul Cuetara. Of course, as Chair he would be serving as a Committee Member and not in the capacity as a Heritage Commissioner.

We are asking that the Board of Selectmen direct the members of the Town Hall Committee to meet prior to September 15, 2006 for the purpose of approving a Chair and receiving reports relative to the restoration of Town Hall.

We appreciate your cooperation and continued support in this very important matter.

(Note: a copy of the letter should be sent to the Long Range Planning Board and all organizations represented in the Committee.

Paul has a list of 16 architectural firms whose expertise is the restoration of Town Halls, including consultants and civil engineers. The Preservation Society has a list of funding opportunities. Forty or fifty Town Halls are currently in the process of being preserved.

The strategy for the Committee would be for the Committee to develop criteria, contact organizations & consultants to appear before the Committee and talk about the process, then develop a plan. Presentation of this plan, which has been developed by noted professionals, will lend credibility to the North Hampton Town Hall plan and facilitate the acquisition of state funds and other resources. The purpose would be to seek to achieve near original restoration of Town Hall. The Committee should identify the intended use of the restored Town Hall, such as a meeting place or museum.

One Hundred Year Old Homes

A review was undergone by the Heritage Commissioners of the letter to current owners with a return form authorizing the use of photographs. It was approved as amended.

Other Heritage Related Town Issues

Jenny will ask Don Gould or Emily about the old home being demolished (on Atlantic in the vicinity of the library and Town Offices) and salvaging the slate roof. Can any purpose be identified which justifies the expense of repair and retention of the old building?

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Kidd