



North Hampton Heritage Commission  
Minutes of Meeting  
October 20, 2011

Heritage Commission Conference Room, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Bldg

Present: Carolyn Brooks  
Jane Currivan  
Donna Etela, Chair  
Jim Maggiore  
Cynthia Swank

Excused Absences: Paul Cuetara, Tibbie Field, Barbara Kohl

1. Etela called the meeting to order at 9:40AM.
2. Treasurer's report - Brooks had not received financial statements from the Town at the time of the meeting, despite requests and promises.
3. Approval of minutes - Draft Minutes of the September 15 meeting were approved, with those not present at that meeting abstaining.
4. Old business
  - a) Brooks reported that the war memorial sign at I-95 and Walnut Avenue was still in place.
  - b) Town Hall. Etela noted that at the last informational meeting for the Town Campus, when few members of the Town Hall Committee or Historical Society were available to attend, there had been attendees who supported the option in which Town Hall would be moved.

Maggiore reported that WarrenStreet Architects has not yet gotten back to the Select Board with a revised plan based upon the comments obtained during the three informational meetings; and that there is no time frame.

Cuetara, the spokesman for the Heritage Commission's statement opposing the moving of Town Hall and the chair of the Town Hall Building Committee, had communicated to Etela that he had visited the Division of Historical Resources offices in Concord and spoken with Mary Kate Ryan about submitting an application to the National Register. Ryan indicated that the successful submission for the State Register was a good basis but that a

professional historical preservation consultant would be needed at a cost ranging from about \$700 to several thousand dollars.

The sentiment of the members was that Cuetara should continue his efforts rather than delaying until the Town Campus plans are finalized. Once Cuetara has a better cost estimate, the Town Hall Committee and Heritage Commission should investigate the feasibility of using one of the reserve funds before considering either its operating budget or fund-raising.

c) Survey of Town Hall/Depot area. Members discussed Ryan's presentation.

d) Commission Records. Etela mentioned that one of the documents she and Swank had seen indicated that the Town had described itself as a Certified Local Government but that it is not listed as such by the Division of Historical Resources. Maggiore will investigate. Etela provided him with the description from the DHR website available at [www.nh.gov/nhdhr/programs/cert\\_local\\_govt.html](http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/programs/cert_local_govt.html)

Among the materials in the file cabinet were black & white photographs from the late 1970s to early 1980s showing local businesses along Route 1 and the aftermath of a storm along Ocean Boulevard. Brooks will try to identify the business photos once Swank determines whether a Sanborn map for that era exists that would help pinpoint the exact address of the businesses. Brooks will contact the North Hampton Business Association to learn if they have information that may assist.

## 5. New business

a) Town Survey and Inventory - Etela distributed copies of the 1994 report by the historic resources consultant for the Department of Transportation (also available on the Town website). She described what had been learned about the DOT project, including why such an assessment was required.

She then distributed the Survey Statement that some volunteers had drafted and asked for comments. It was decided that Swank would send the original draft statement as well as the comments / changes mentioned during the meeting to all members to review, and ask that individuals submit their comments to her within two weeks so that she could compile them for the next meeting. At that time, the Commission hopes to finalize the draft, and send to Ryan at DHR for comments. After Ryan's review, the Commission will revise and vote on the final Survey Statement.

Members discussed the next steps. It was agreed that the project boundaries would extend along Atlantic Avenue from Pine Road to Route 1 [street numbers are 197 to 249] and include the School property. Historical

research may result in the boundary changing to reflect how the area actually developed in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Etela suggested that the Commission invite all residents and property owners in the area to a public presentation / meeting / social gathering at Town Hall sometime in January if the Commission is far enough along in its planning. Purpose is to inform, educate, excite, and enlist support and, in turn, to listen and learn from participants. Key sites are the Old Library, Joe's Meat Shop, and the Depot.

Administrative items.

a) The newly created Rye Heritage Commission contacted Etela through the public email address [nhheritage@gmail.com](mailto:nhheritage@gmail.com) seeking assistance in getting established. Swank has provided our Bylaws and Rules of Procedure and cited the Weare Heritage Commission.

b) Members agreed to join the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance; cost is \$50. Brooks will take care of it. The organization provides grants, workshops, a newsletter, and other resources.

c) Members agreed that Swank may purchase Plexiglas to replace the broken glass in the picture frame above the exhibit case.

6. Next meeting is Thursday, November 17 at 9:30 in the Heritage Conference Room, Town Clerk / Tax Collector Building.

7. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Cynthia G. Swank, Recording Secretary