



Minutes

Thursday, 15 August 2013 9:30 AM
Heritage Commission Conference Room
237 Atlantic Avenue

Present:

Carolyn Brooks
Paul Cuetara
Donna Etela, Chair
Jim Maggiore
Cynthia Swank

Alternate Member: Jane Robie, Tibbie Field (late)

Absent: Jane Currivan, Shep Kroner

1. Meeting called to order at 9:35AM; Robie to vote for Currivan.
2. Treasurer's Report. No report received for July.
3. Approval of Minutes. The July 18, 2013 minutes were approved as written.
4. Old Business

Planning Commission/ Master Plan Chapter update. Etela has received no response to her query whether the amended proposed ordinance had been distributed or the Long-range Planning Committee has a meeting scheduled. Planning Board Chair Kroner is on vacation.

Survey Update. Following up on a June query and response, Etela contacted Jennifer Goodman of the NH Preservation Alliance asking her if she had found someone willing to speak to the Commission and survey volunteers about architectural design. Etela has not received a response.

Etela will try to arrange a meeting with Becky Mitchell, chair of the Stratham Heritage Commission, and Swank to learn lessons learned relating to an historic resources survey.

Swank will contact Plymouth State University regarding the possibility of interns to assist in the historic resources survey at some time. Lyme is doing such a survey with volunteers but also is using a consultant based in Concord.

Discussion of the historic resources survey of the Town Hall/Depot area led to a further discussion about the land on which the Town municipal buildings now and in the future may be located, the abutting commercial properties, the State's role relating to the former railroad property and bridge over the tracks, and the reuse of the stone building.

[Sue Buchanan, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, and Town Administrator Paul Apple who happened to be in the building were asked to join the meeting at 10:10AM. Field arrived at 10:15AM.]

Discussion centered around easements over private property, how property laws relate to municipal-owned property, and possible traffic and other man-made risks affecting the property. There was agreement that a surveyor's services for the municipal facilities' property would be prudent.

[Buchanan & Apple left 10:50]

National Register Nomination/Stone Building update. Etela will inform Peter Michaud of the Division of Historical Resources that only minimal changes to the building will occur this year and that we can go ahead with preparing the nomination in time for the October National Register meeting. The renovations are limited to the rear threshold and door, the ramp, the installation of a new HVAC.

Some discussion about the 8/14/13 Facilities Committee meeting ensued: co-joining the buildings, shared or common spaces, conference spaces in the stone building, records storage issues, and location / needs of Heritage Commission and other boards and commissions.

Maggiore emailed Ron Lamarre of Lavallee Brensinger to try to arrange to have Swank meet with Lamarre when he visits 8/16/13 to determine records storage spaces, an area evidently overlooked by WarrenStreet.

LBH joint meeting. There has been no further communication regarding last month's meeting.

Action Items not yet discussed. None.

5. New Business

Conservation Commission request. Chris Ganotis, Chair of the Conservation Commission, requested information about two former roads on a recently acquired property where the Marston farm was located at Atlantic Avenue and Mill Road. Robie has provided information to him after doing deed research and checking old tax maps; she will continue with the effort. Members accepted Ganotis' offer of a tour of the property but asked the Chair to request it be after the first frost.

Southeastern NH Heritage /Historic District Commissions' meeting. Etela reminded everyone that the second such regional meeting will be hosted by the Rye Heritage Commission at the Rye Congregational Church on Saturday, 9/21. She requested that everyone respond to Mae Bradshaw's message of July 27 if they have not already done so.

Other Informational / Administrative Items.

Cuetara brought the two books he had mentioned at last month's meeting.

Etela requested that anyone who knows of a person who might make a good Alternate Member of the Heritage Commission to let her know.

[Field left 11:21]

Maggiore will look into possibility of keycard access to the stone building as part of renovation. Then, the Heritage Commission might have access to its space after the Clerk/Collector Office hours.

6. Next Meeting Date & Time. 9/19/13

7. Adjournment. 11:23 AM

Cynthia Swank
Recording Secretary