



Thursday, 25 September 2014
Heritage Commission Conference Room
237 Atlantic Avenue

Present:

Paul Cuetara
Jane Currivan
Donna Etela, Chair
Jim Maggiore
Jane Robie
Cynthia Swank

Alternates: Carolyn Brooks, Tibbie Field, Nancy Monaghan

Absent: Jeff Hillier

1. Call to Order at 9:33AM; designation of voting - not required

2. Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer distributed the statements which were accepted by members. The unexpended funds from last year's budget of \$769.19 will be added to the Heritage Fund.

3. Approval of Minutes. August 21, 2014 minutes were approved.

4. Old Business.

The Chair moved up the agenda item **Discretionary Preservation Easements** [of historic agricultural structures]

Etela reported on her conversation with Beverly Thompson of the NH Preservation Alliance. She asked everyone to review the NHPA handouts that explain and provide advice about discretionary preservation easements; and noted that the Moultonborough Heritage Commission chair recommended using the NHPA materials and had informed Swank that the NHPA is preparing an even better packet for use by all towns.

Two Select Board members had used Moultonborough's materials as a basis for draft policies. Upon review, it appears that Deerfield approach may be best until the new NHPA packet becomes available. Etela also found a sample Discretionary Preservation Easement

deed form from the Town of Kensington that the Select Board and Town Administrator may wish to adapt.

It was agreed that the Select Board does not seem to need a formal policy as RSA 79-D, the NH Department of Revenue Administration, the NH Division of Historic Resources, and NH Preservation Alliance outline policies and procedures.

The following motion was approved unanimously with Maggiore abstaining: The Heritage Commission recommends to the Select Board that the Town adopt the procedures outlined in RSA 79-D Discretionary Preservation Easements and utilize the NH Preservation Alliance's and NH Division of Historical Resources' information packets. We also recommend that the Town follow Deerfield in providing the information on the Town website; and that the Town Administrator review the Town of Kensington's deed template. We also suggest that the Select Board establish a policy requesting the Heritage Commission's involvement in determining an agricultural structure's historic significance and eligibility for a discretionary preservation easement. The Heritage Commission will provide a document with its analysis and recommendation. If a discretionary preservation easement is approved, the Building Inspector and Heritage Commission will inspect each building biennially [every two years].

Attic Finds-Alethoscope. Community newsletter is now out in electronic format and the Heritage Commission article about the megaethoscope is on the front page. The NH Arts Council grant coordinator has informed Swank that the project would be eligible under the Council's guidelines including possibly the equipment itself.

Michael Lee of NEDCC asked the status of the grant and Swank informed him of its rejection by the State Library's review panel and that it may be another year before funds are in hand.

Maggiore will pick up the 1857 Rockingham County map from NEDCC next week; he will inform Swank the day and she will email NEDCC notifying the Registrar that NEDCC may release the map to Maggiore.

Rails to Trails. A Select Board member wanted the request to set up a committee to include its charge, and a date certain for its beginning and end, and staggered terms for its members. At present, Cuetara, Jeff Hillier, Chris Ganotis and Lee Brooks are willing to serve; Phil Wilson declined as it may seem a conflict of interest as he is on the board of the Rockingham Planning Commission. Cuetara will not be available on October 6th but will ask Ganotis to present the revised request to the Select Board.

Cuetara conveyed Scott Bogle's request of Heritage Commission members to go online and respond to a survey that will assist the Rockingham Planning Commission in preparing the historic resources section of its Master Plan. The link is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RPC-Historic>

Swank reported that Stanton wishes to have next year's CIP include \$75k for the next three years for paying to remove or lower the railroad bridge on Atlantic Avenue. It is not on the NH DOT's 10year list but the estimated cost to the Town is around \$300k with the remainder from the State.

Survey Update, Centennial Hall.

Brooks has not received a response from Marcy McCann about her interest in researching and preparing the necessary National Register nomination application with the Heritage Commission's assistance. Brooks will follow up.

Town Campus Facilities update.

Maggiore indicated that one of the two potential sites for the Public Safety building on Route 1 remains viable. The Select Board will decide at its October 6th meeting.

Maggiore will be presenting the current Town campus plan to PAL and expects to get participants' reaction to having two warrant articles - one for a new Public Safety building and the second for a new Library connected to renovated Town Offices in what is now the Police and Town Office building.

[Brooks left at 11:10am]

[Currivan left at 11:12am]

LBH Heritage Commission.

Jane Rockwell has provided photos and numbers and dimensions of records and other LBH materials for which storage in the renovated Town Offices would be needed. Swank will calculate. Rockwell also indicated she will be stepping down as Chair of the LBH Heritage Commission. Etela will contact her about possible joint meeting in November.

Action Items. None.

5. New Business. None

6. Next Meeting Date & Time. Thursday 10/16/2014 at 9:30AM.

7. Adjournment 11:16AM

Cynthia G. Swank
Recording Secretary