

Approved at
18 Jun 2015 meeting



Thursday, 21 May 2015
Heritage Commission Conference Room
237 Atlantic Avenue

Present:

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

Alternates: Carolyn Brooks, Jeff Hillier, Vicki Jones, Nancy Monaghan

Absent: Jane Currivan

The meeting was properly posted.

1. Called to Order at 9:36AM. Brooks to vote for Currivan.

2. Treasurer's Report. Treasurer was not in attendance but had sent statements provided by the Finance Director. Maggiore indicated that the Select Board must approve setting aside the \$500 received from the sale of the Alethoscope for historic preservation. Etela stated that the Town paid the bill for the storage equipment and will charge the Heritage Commission's accounts at the end of the fiscal year. The amount was \$1120.22.

3. Approval of Minutes. April 23, 2015 Regular Meeting. Cuetara moved and Robie seconded approval of the minutes as amended (minor corrections). Approved unanimously.

May 8, 2015 Special Meeting. Cuetara moved and Brooks seconded approval of the minutes as drafted. Approved unanimously.

4. Old Business

Rails to Trails update. Cuetara announced that there will be a program hosted by the North Hampton Rails to Trails and Byways Committee. Members Hillier and Cuetara with the assistance of Jeff Latimer (Gus's Bicycles) and Paul Apple are handling arrangements. It will be held in Town Hall on Thursday, May 28 at 4pm. The public is welcome and, in addition, various elected officials have been invited. Cuetara provided the draft program. The program features Scott Bogle, Transportation Consultant for the Rockingham Planning

Commission. The State has resumed negotiations with Pan Am and it appears that this final link joining rail trails from Calais, Maine to Key West, FL may happen sooner than anticipated.

[Hillier left 9:45]

Cuetara stated that the Town would need to enter into a rail maintenance agreement with the State after the State does the work of preparing the bed. There is the opportunity for sponsors of portions of the trail; such trails are considered of economic benefit to communities.

Town Campus Facilities. Etela and Swank attended the Select Board meeting of May 18th when the discretionary barn easements for Dale Farm and Hobbs Farm were on the agenda. The Municipal Facilities Advisory Committee also was on the agenda and provided copies of its one page double-sided report. The Vice Chair of the Facilities Advisory Committee Michael Castagna presented the report but evidently gave his personal opinions as much as the conclusions of the Committee.

Etela brought to this meeting her file containing the various reports and plans the Town and Library have undertaken over the past fourteen years. She noted that even fourteen years ago, the estimated costs were higher than the estimate used by the Vice Chair of the latest Facilities Advisory Committee. There was no mention in the latest report or public presentation of the two historic buildings on the land or of Rails to Trails. Swank recommended that members watch the meeting online or community TV and read the report which is on the Town website.

There will be a public hearing on the latest proposed plan Wednesday, May 27 at 7pm at Town Hall. Maggiore indicated that he expects the Select Board will make a decision at its June 8th meeting about how to proceed.

Survey maps - next steps. Robie did not find errors in her area. Swank had noted earlier that the two UCC churches, each built in 1838, have dates of 1971 and 1930 in the Vision database. One house on Cherry Road also appears to have a much more recent date than likely.

Etela's submission for the summer Community Newsletter is about the historic resources maps - how to access the maps and the Vision database from the Town website and how to reach the Rockingham Registry of Deeds online and negotiate a records search. She hopes readers of the article will check Vision's date for their own homes and, if inaccurate, contact the Commission with correct information. If people are interested in a workshop about how to do deed research, the Commission could offer a workshop at the Library.

DOT Communications -RE: NHDOT Project 24457 - HC Consulting Party. Etela has not received any notifications from the NHDOT.

Robie reported that she and Hillier have walked the railroad bed north under the North Road bridge. The bridge on which the State's DOT expects to start work within a few years is indeed in poor condition with pieces of concrete falling from it. The rail bed was flooded in some locations. There are several trails from the school.

Barn Easement Update. The Select Board gave easements for Hobbs Farm and Dale Farm for the percentages recommended by the Commission. The Select Board is developing procedures for itself and to pass on to subsequent Select Boards so that the process for monitoring and renewal of discretionary preservation easements works smoothly.

A reporter from the *Hampton Union* wishes to do an article about Dale Farm's barn easement. Maggiore, Etela and Hank Brandt, the owner of Dale Farm will meet with the reporter at the property on May 26th. The Southeast Land Trust will be doing its annual inspection on that day.

Action Items (*from last meeting not covered in prior discussion*). Swank will contact Currivan to learn whether Currivan has given physical copies of the historic resources maps to Margaret Schoenberger for the Little Boar's Head Heritage Commission. Currivan also intended to provide bound map packet or packets to the Commission.

5. New Business

HC/HDC Regional Meeting. The Exeter Heritage Commission will likely host the next meeting in the Fall. Julie Gilman is the contact.

DHR - share your photos initiative. The Commission will post images of Town Hall and the North Hampton Library (stone building) as both are public buildings on the National Register. Members mentioned other likely locations but felt it should be up to individual owners to participate.

Centennial Hall. The Friends of Centennial Hall expect to provide copies of information to assist the Commission; a National Register application is probably going forward.

6. Next Meeting Date 6/ 18 at 9:30AM

7. Adjournment 11:11 am

Cynthia G. Swank
Recording Secretary