

Approved as written  
21 Aug 2015 meeting



Thursday, 16 July 2015  
Heritage Commission Conference Room  
237 Atlantic Avenue

Present:

Paul Cuetara  
Donna Etela, Chair  
Jane Robie  
Cynthia Swank

Alternates: Carolyn Brooks, Jeff Hillier, Vicki Jones

Absent: Jane Currivan, Jim Maggiore, Nancy Monaghan

The meeting was properly posted.

1. Called to Order at 9:30am. Hillier to vote for Currivan.

2. Treasurer's Report. Report accepted as prepared. Moved by Cuetara, seconded by Robie and approved unanimously to instruct Currivan to request that funds remaining in operating budget from last fiscal year be transferred to the Heritage Fund. It is understood that Finance Director Ryan Cornwell will then withdraw money from the Heritage Fund to pay for the storage equipment purchased by the Heritage Commission.

3. Approval of Minutes. The June 18, 2015 minutes approved as corrected by the Secretary to reflect usual meeting date.

4. Old Business

**Rails to Trails update.** Etela brought to members' attention the Eastern RR historic district report (64 pages) that Lisa Mausolf prepared in 2002 and including the Determination of Eligibility as a National Register- eligible structure.

Cuetara noted the railroad right of way is 60 feet and includes the piece of land where the unpainted building on the west side of the tracks at Atlantic Avenue is located. He indicated that there is a map that shows the railroad right of way along 9.2 miles from the Hampton bridge by Lamies on High Street and Lafayette Road to the Greenland town line.

Cuetara reported that a non-profit organization to be called North Hampton Trails is being set up and an IRS 501(c)3 application is in process. Cindy Jenkins and Jane Robie are being

invited to be part of the board. There may be a grant of \$1500 from a local organization. North Hampton Trails hopes to hold an organizational meeting on July 29th. There also will be a regional council where each town will share information.

Cuetara noted that Jeff Latimer is organizing a Ghost Trail ride. The Ghost Trail is the portion of the rail trail between Amesbury and Salisbury. Other outreach and informational efforts are being planned.

**Town Campus Facilities.** Etela has attended meetings of the Fifth Municipal Facilities Committee. The Committee is pricing out the plan that the so-called Chauncey Committee (Fourth Municipal Facilities Committee) proposed. Another plan and attendant costs also is likely to be presented to the Select Board in September. In both cases, there will be a new Library on the Homestead property. In the second plan, the Fire Station and current Library will be torn down. Both plans will be phased programs. The Committee is to meet with Library trustees next week. She encouraged Swank to be present for the Committee's meetings as they relate to records space.

**Survey maps -1857 & 1892.** Swank reported that Lorreen Keating had not found a person to do the work of creating a grid on the maps and index of names using photo editing software and spreadsheet. Members agreed that it might be an Eagle Scout project for the Exeter scout troop.

**HC files/Hobbs research notes.** Jones reported that she will move Helen Hobbs' research notes *re* North Hampton's role in the American Revolution to the Historical Society storage area. She is revising and updating the original inventory; it can be published, making the reference files more accessible for anyone interested in viewing them.

**Storage Cabinet/brochures** Swank will contact members to do the work in the attic when there is a cooler Monday. She asked members who visit the building to replenish the various flyers and noted that only the top stack of war monument flyers located in the storage cabinet have been corrected.

**Grant Application.** Etela reported that historic preservation consultant Lisa Mausolf was enthusiastic about the grant project. She has provided an estimate for her work and talking points that may be used in preparing the grant application and in soliciting supporting letters from the Select Board, Planning Board, Director of Emergency Planning, Fire Chief and any others. Jones will do the first draft, Swank will edit and return to Jones and Etela for final touches before the August 10th deadline.

**Centennial Hall.** Etela circulated a scanned copy of the original plans and specifications she received from Marcy McCann, courtesy of Kim Nadeau. John D. Towle was the Boston architect for the building. He also designed North Church in Portsmouth. The actual contractors have not been identified. Etela also reported that Bruce Dow is willing to let us copy pages of the original S.A. Dow diary which includes Dow's observations about the building and opening festivities. Brooks and Cuetara provided information about the more recent history of the building after the current school was built. Swank reported that Jane

Boesch is reviewing church as well as Historical Society materials about Centennial Hall to provide McCann. Etela suggested it might be simpler and certainly helpful if Boesch would write a description with citations that might be incorporated in the historical narrative for the National Register application.

Action Items - None that have not been covered at this meeting.

#### New Business

**Communication RE: 34 Post Rd.** Etela received a communication from Bob Landman correcting the information about his house that appears in *100 Historic Houses*. He did not realize that the owners' names referred to the ones on the 1892 map, not the original owners. He provided historical information about the house for which Etela thanked him. He also noted a typo in one of the brochures produced a number of years ago.

**Visit to Drake Farm 6/29/2015.** Peter Rhoads, owner of Drake Farm, invited Etela and Swank, Mausolf, and Peter Michaud of the NH Division of Historical Resources to meet Mary Drake Hale when she visited. Hale had grown up in and owned Drake Farm. Hale brought along a binder containing an extensive family tree, and loaned it to Rhoads to make photocopies.

Brooks asked about the 80 Lafayette Road property and indicated she would like to visit it if the Heritage Commission has a reason to do so. She indicated that the house was built by Harold Hobbs for his first wife. The current owner's mother was a Worden.

**Master Plan.** Swank noted that the Planning Board is finalizing the Master Plan this year and wondered whether it expected to update any sections. She noted the historical resources section is now 2 1/2 years old and that the imminent rail trail deserves some thought by the Planning Board. Cuetara will talk to the Chair of the Planning Board about the rail trail. Swank will speak with Nancy Monaghan. about Heritage Commission.

Before the conclusion of the meeting, Cuetara asked for a list of "To do" items for him. They are to get maps and flyers from Scott Bogle of Rockingham Planning Commission to be placed in Library and Clerk's Office and the large map could be put under the glass on the Heritage Commission table; determine ownership of the land adjacent to the railroad; update Joe Kutt, and the person who bought the depot; contact the NH Business Association.

6. Next Meeting Date. NOTE ONE TIME ONLY. **Friday, August 21 at 10:30AM**

7. Adjournment at 11:25am.

Cynthia G. Swank  
Recording Secretary