

Approved at
17 Sep 2015 meeting



Friday, 21 August 2015
Heritage Commission Conference Room
237 Atlantic Avenue

Present:

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

Alternates: Carolyn Brooks, Jeff Hillier, Vicki Jones

The meeting was properly posted.

1. Call to Order at 10:30am.

Designation of voting Brooks for Robie (unnecessary as Robie arrived 10:31)

2. Treasurer's Report. Currivan was unable to obtain the monthly report from Finance because the Finance Director out and no one else could assist.

3. Approval of Minutes, July 16, 2015 was approved as written

4. Old Business

Grant Applications. [Moved up in the agenda order].

Swank has not received a response from the NH Council on the Arts grant coordinator about the status of the Mooseplate grant application.

Jones submitted to the NH Division of Historical Resources the application for a pre-disaster planning for historic resources grant. Only recently announced with an August 10th deadline, the grant would fund a town-wide survey of historic resources. The Commission is seeking a grant of \$14,500, \$13,000 of which would pay for a professional historic preservationist to conduct the survey and complete the NH DHR's area form. \$1500 is the estimate from the Rockingham Planning Commission for the preparation of maps. The funding comes from FEMA through the National Park Service.

The Town should learn if the grant application is successful by the end of September. Depending upon the quantity and quality of the submissions by other towns, North Hampton might receive the amount requested, a reduced amount, or no money. Manchester, submitting a Round 2 application, is among the contenders.

Jones obtained supporting letters to accompany the application from the Select Board, Emergency Management Director Brian Page, and Rockingham Planning Commission. Despite efforts to contact the Planning Board chair, there was no response. Etela expressed her disappointment over the lack of communication and cooperation.

Etela stated that grant or no grant, the Commission needs a plan for funding such work, and, when asked, noted its importance for disaster preparedness, including the possibility of federal funding for historic resources, and facilitating the review of barn easement and demolition review applications.

Rails to Trails update. Cuetara reported that the State and Pan Am have not reached an agreement and the appraisal values provided by the State and by Pan Am are markedly different. The Committee has submitted a 501(c)3 application. Robie indicated that the Town Administrator had contacted her about being on the North Hampton Trail board, she had declined, and her name should not appear as a board member. Her son, Chris Robie, is interested and Cuetara will contact him.

Nancy Stiles, chair of the Senate committee whose jurisdiction includes the rail trail effort has asked the Select Boards of municipalities to condemn the right of way property, and send tax bills to Pan Am. Maggiore also reported that the Select Board is asking other communities about maintenance of the property after the State completes its initial work and the surface the towns intend to maintain.

Cuetara has obtained one copy each of the two maps of the rail trail corridor produced by Rockingham Planning Commission. Members asked him to obtain a second copy of the one showing North Hampton only, placing it under the glass of the Heritage Commission conference room table. The sentiment was that the mounting of the two maps for display purposes in Town Offices should be done professionally by Staples with the Town paying the approximate \$60 cost.

Etela stressed the value of preparing a narrative for the Town's Master Plan and that Kroner is urging the Rail Trail Committee to submit. Cuetara will contact Shep Kroner, chair of the Planning Board. Monaghan will mention the potential economic benefits of the rail trail to the Economic Development Committee. Cuetara noted that the Rockingham Planning Commission is scheduled to give a presentation to the North Hampton Business Association at one of the Association's meetings.

Town Campus Facilities. Etela who has been attending the Municipal Facilities Committee meetings reported that the Committee is now getting prices for the Chauncey Plan, a variation of the Mires' concept, and the Committee's new plan. She noted that two

members wanted to reduce records storage and work space in Town Offices and that there was some talk of reducing the size of the Library.

She noted that there is now another plan being proposed by a group of citizens. Monaghan outlined the concept: utilize the town-owned Dearborn Park property and property behind the field to build a new Library with the athletic fields relocated to the north of the property. The driveway can be relocated so that it is not steep. The group has spoken with the property owner. It is aware of the need to involve Aquarion Water Works.

[Jones left 11:32am]

Several suggested taking more time in developing any new plan rather than putting town facilities warrant on the ballot in March 2016. Cuetara wondered whether the Department of Revenue Administration [DRA] might approve the Town holding a special meeting.

Centennial Hall. Etela and Swank are scheduled to meet with Marcy McCann, President of the Friends of Centennial Hall, on September 2nd to review the historical narrative she has provided, and discuss next steps regarding the National Register application. McCann also wishes to discuss a holiday event that might involve the Heritage Commission.

Action Items. None that have not already been discussed.

5. New Business

Master Plan. Already discussed in Rail Trail item.

Little Boar's Head Heritage Commission request. Currivan stated that Margaret Schoenberger of LBH HC is requesting the North Hampton Heritage Commission to participate in and become a co-sponsor of a Town Hall presentation on October 7th of a documentary entitled *Flats, Shacks & Claws*. The film maker will attend and be part of the program. Brooks reported that it was an excellent film. Members indicated support for the Commission's participation which likely will include encouraging attendance among their network of friends and town organizations.

Cemetery / Eagle Scout. Etela reported that the Eagle Scout who had contacted her is taking as his project the clean-up of the cemetery on Exeter Road. She noted that this cemetery does not receive regular maintenance with the excuses including budget squeezing and the Town and trustees being unclear about ownership and access. She researched deeds and RSAs and provided the information to the interested parties with the hope that this one-time volunteer effort will be sustained.

6. Next Meeting Date & Time. Thursday, Sep 17 at 9:30am.

7. Adjournment. 11:51am

Cynthia G. Swank
Recording Secretary