

Approved at
21 Jan 2016 meeting



17 December 2015
Heritage Commission Conference Room
237 Atlantic Avenue

Present:
Donna Etela, Chair
Cynthia Swank
Jim Maggiore
Jane Robie

Alternates: Jeff Hillier, Vicki Jones, Nancy Monaghan

Absent: Carolyn Brooks, Paul Cuetara, Jane Currivan

The meeting was properly posted.

1. Call to Order at 9:34am.

Designation of voting. Hillier for Cuetara; Jones for Currivan

2. Treasurer's Report. Members received the statements via email. They show \$1000 remaining in the operating budget. The Heritage Fund savings account balance is \$4861.78. The net increase is represented by the \$500 received earlier in the year for the sale of the Alethoscope and interest, less the remaining cost of the storage equipment.

Etela asked to renew membership in the NH Preservation Alliance. The \$50 expense was approved by acclamation. Etela noted a story in NH Preservation Alliance's most recent newsletter that mentions Drake Farm and the tax implications / advantages in gaining National Register status.

3. Approval of Minutes. The 11/15/2015 minutes were approved as written (Robie moved, Jones seconded).

4. Old Business

Rails to Trails update. Hillier reported that the Town and State are still working on agreement revisions. The regional group meets regularly; the next meeting is scheduled for January 16th in North Hampton. Shep Kroner, chair of the Planning Board, had informed Hillier that there has been some progress between the State and Pan Am.

Swank mentioned that she sent a message to Little Boar's Head Heritage Commission members requesting that they propose some dates they would be available for a joint meeting about road signs. Etela noted that Stratham uses its seal on street signs. She also asked about the North Hampton rail trail logo. It evidently is a first effort.

Town Campus Facilities. Monaghan described the citizens petition warrant article to sign this weekend and the basic plan for providing information to and attracting voters. It was noted that construction costs continue to rise. If both warrants pass (the one for the Public Safety building alone and the existing plan), the Select Board would act on the most financially prudent one. If the Fire Department building were to collapse this Winter, a Town special meeting would be required.

Grant Applications/Status of Implementation. *Pre-disaster grant.* Etela is attempting to set up a January meeting with consultant Lisa Mausolf and a representative from Little Boar's Head Heritage Commission. Town Administrator Apple sent, as requested, certification of insurance information to Amy Dixon, the Division of Historical Resources grants administrator.

Mooseplate grant. Northeast Document Conservation Center [NEDCC] has provided an updated proposal and as soon as it is determined who should sign, the prints can be delivered to them for conservation. 90% of the grant funds have been sent to the Town; the remaining funds are released upon completion of the project.

275th Town Anniversary. Maggiore reported that the Select Board has endorsed creating an anniversary committee and that he will find out if a chair has been found.

Hillier noted that Hebron produces a newsletter that features an older home in each issue. The article is written by the home owners and provides information similar to the book Bob Hamilton had mentioned *Historic Salisbury Houses*.

HC/HDC Date, Location, Speaker, Program, Committee. The Heritage Commission will host the regional meeting next Fall. Barns is the likely theme. Beverly Thomas of the NH Division of Historical Resources or Steve Bedard were suggested as possible speakers. Jones will inquire whether Throwback Brewery might serve as a weekday venue in September or October.

NH Coastal Risks. Hillier is attending the meeting this afternoon and will send Etela a summary for distribution, and might speak briefly at a Select Board meeting. Mention of sensitive seacoast areas Philbrick Pond, Bass Beach berm, Old Lock Road and Country Club Estates was made.

Action Items. None not already reported.

5. New Business

HC Budget Line Designation. Both the Town Administrator and Finance Director think the budget line can be moved from under the Planning Board account lines to a separate line. It was noted that there have been three years of requests.

Megaethoscope / Centennial Hall expo possibility. Etela contacted an antiques dealer in Portsmouth who she expects will provide the names of at least two people, one for refurbishment and one to build the stand. Once Etela has cost estimates and there is a timeline, she will speak with Marcy McCann about Centennial Hall as the venue for an event.

[Monaghan left 10:38]

Vote to spend \$470 for digitization. As the Mooseplate grant only covers the conservation of the Megaethoscope prints, members voted unanimously to approve the expenditure of \$470 for the digitization by Northeast Document Conservation Center of the conserved prints. There will be three images for each print, showing daylight, twilight, and nighttime and mimicking the lighting effects produced by the Megaethoscope.

[Hillier left 10:42]

Swank will investigate projecting the digital images and other uses, as well as inquiring about a Rhode Island group that performs a contemporary magic lantern show.

6. Next Meeting Date & Time. Thursday, Jan 21 at 9:30am.

7. Adjournment. 10:49 am

Cynthia G. Swank
Recording Secretary