

**Stratham Heritage Commission**  
**Minutes of meeting of February 9, 2011**

Present: David Canada, MJ Werner, Rebecca Mitchell, Florence Wiggin, Nathan Merrill, Georgiana Law. Paul Deschaine arrived during the meeting.

Meeting called to order at 5:35 PM

In the absence of Beverly Connolly, Rebecca Mitchell agreed to take minutes.

Minutes of the meeting of January 24 were approved.

**Old Business:**

Stratham Agriculture Program:

Arrangements for the Feb. 11 program were reviewed and discussed.

Capital Reserve Fund:

We collected 84 signatures for a petition warrant article asking the Town to raise and appropriate \$200,000 for a Capital Reserve Fund for historic preservation; of those, 82 were allowed. At the public hearing on Feb. 7 Becky presented the Heritage Commission's position. There was minimal discussion from the floor or from the Selectmen. Article 18 establishing a Capital Reserve Fund was unanimously recommended by the Selectmen while Article 19, the petition warrant article to raise and appropriate \$200,000 for the Fund, was not recommended by a vote of two to one. With Paul Deschaine participating in our discussion, the Commission agreed that the proposed name of the fund is the Heritage Preservation Fund. It was also agreed that we will consider an amendment to Article 19 reducing the amount to be appropriated, pending the tenor of public comments made at Town Meeting when discussing the article. We would prefer to see a smaller amount placed in the fund rather than nothing at all if public opinion appears to be that \$200,000 is too much.

Kenniston Tavern: The situation with the Kenniston Tavern was discussed with all present agreeing that the time has come to seek some publicity, linked to the effort to create a Heritage Preservation Fund. Consensus was reached that the Commission (pending Fannie Mae establishing an asking price) will make an offer for the Tavern limited to the \$50,000 - \$150,000 range, contingent upon the Town Meeting voting for Articles 18 and 19, and contingent upon the approval of the Board of Selectmen.

Stratham – Newfields Bridge sign: The Chair displayed the graphics and text that will be mounted on the four panels of the sign. The DOT says the work will be done this spring.

Postcards: The text for the point of sale sign was approved. The cards will be displayed for sale at the Feb. 11 event and at Town Meeting and voting day – as well as locations discussed at previous meetings. Planning for future cards, the Chair will ask Lincoln Daley if Chuck Grassie's barn photos are on the Planning Office computer.

**New Business:**

Election of Officers: Nate moved, MJ seconded, and all members voted unanimously to elect the following officers: Rebecca Mitchell, Chairman; Nancy Hansen, Treasurer; Beverly Connolly, Secretary.

**Announcements:**

Feb. 24, Candidates' Night: the Chair will ask to speak for Articles 18 and 19.

March 11, Town Meeting

April 8, NH Preservation Alliance Conference at NH Institute of Art, Manchester

**NEXT MEETING: MARCH 9**