

Stratham Heritage Commission
Minutes of meeting of January 24, 2011

Present: David Canada, MJ Werner, Rebecca Mitchell, Nancy Hansen, Florence Wiggin,
Nathan Merrill

Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM

In the absence of Bev Connolly, the Chair, Rebecca Mitchell, agreed to take minutes.
Minutes of the meeting of December 8 were approved.

The sole agenda item of the meeting was to discuss the situation with the Kenniston Tavern. The Chair distributed copies of the draft report of "Baseline Documentation and Recommendation for Preservation Actions" prepared by the Preservation Company. She also reported that earlier in the day the listing real estate agent told her that the property appears to have been foreclosed. There are two likely consequences: the property will be re-listed for sale or (less likely) it will be auctioned.

In the ensuing discussion the Commission agreed that the Kenniston Tavern is a property of historical significance to the Town and that it is desirable that it remain in its present location. Of the options discussed, the most attractive to the Commission members present was the purchase of the property with the plan to resell it after establishing preservation easements to protect it for the future. Mechanisms to achieve this were discussed. Dave Canada stated his support for this option, but stated that he could not support seeking funding from the Town at this time.

The Commission decided that it would seek a warrant article to establish a Heritage Reserve Fund. Dave suggested that one warrant article might simply set up the fund with no funding while a separate article could address funding. He agreed to discuss this at the Board of Selectmen meeting. It was the sense of the meeting that there would be no difficulty in gathering the necessary signatures for a citizens' petition for a warrant article to fund a Heritage Reserve Fund and the sum of \$200,000 was agreed upon.

The meeting adjourned at 7 PM

The next meeting of the Commission will be February 9, 2011 5:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Mitchell