

**STRATHAM HERITAGE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2012**

The meeting convened at 7:05 PM

Present: Nathan Merrill, Nancy Hansen, Rebecca Mitchell

The reading and approval of the minutes of the November meeting was tabled because there was not a quorum of members present who had also been present at that meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Budget: The draft budget and budget narrative, previously circulated, was reviewed and discussed. Nancy moved and Nathan seconded that the commission vote to approve the budget. The motion passed unanimously.

Veterans' Garden: Rebecca reported that the order for two well light lenses (one replacement and one spare) was received from Rockingham Electric. The supplier sent two complete fixtures at no extra charge. The total bill was \$84.56. Kim Woods has installed the replacement lens and stored the extra fixtures.

Planning Board: Rebecca reported that when questioned Lincoln Daley informed her that the first public hearing on the proposed rezoning of 5 Emery's Lane has been scheduled for Wednesday, Jan.2. Since Rebecca will be out of town on that date Nathan proposed that she write a letter that can be read at the hearing. The Heritage Commission's Oct. 24 letter to the Planning Board can also be read at the hearing. Members may also prepare personal remarks and responses.

The members present agreed that the commission will discuss the suitability of a citizen letter campaign at our January meeting. Rebecca agreed to ask Paul Deschaine for a copy of the petition.

Heritage Preservation Fund: The proposed warrant article to fund the Heritage Preservation Fund was sent to the Selectmen on Nov. 19.

The wording submitted is:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Fifty Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$50,000) to be deposited in the Capital Reserve Fund known as the Heritage Preservation Fund created by Article 18 passed by the voters at Town Meeting, March 18, 2011.

Rebecca agreed to enquire whether the warrant article has been discussed by the Selectmen.

Banner: There was a discussion of the size, design and wording of the banner.

.....
The meeting was interrupted at approximately 8 PM when Lincoln Daley asked the commission members to join the Planning Board Meeting in progress. The meeting resumed at 8:25.
.....

Rebecca agreed to send suggested wording to commission members and ask for further ideas.

Lane books: Rebecca reported picking up 20 copies of the Samuel Lane biography at the NH Historical Society shop. The invoice for \$200 (\$10 per book that originally sold for \$50) was given to Nancy Hansen who will submit it for payment from the revolving fund. It was agreed to sell the books for \$20.

NEW BUSINESS:

Demolition case: Rebecca reported that a demolition permit was issued for the barn at 96 Stratham Heights Rd., the Breslin property. The permit should not have been issued without first going through the review process since the barn met all the criteria for review. Pictures taken by Terry Barnes, the Code Enforcement Officer, after the demolition had commenced were circulated. There was agreement that had the barn been submitted for review it is likely that the demolition would have been allowed. However, Rebecca will meet with staff to make sure the review criteria and procedures are understood. She also will ask Ray Breslin if he has any photos of the property showing the barn before demolition.

Other properties: Nathan raised the matter of several other properties at risk. The members present agreed that conversations with the owners be initiated, suitable to the challenges facing each property. Guidance may be sought from the NH Preservation Alliance.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10

NEXT MEETING JANUARY 9, 7 PM

The meeting will be chaired by Nancy Hansen in the Chairman's absence. Please note that an additional meeting may be called later in the month.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Mitchell