

**Stratham Heritage Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of June 13, 2012**

The meeting convened at 7:30 PM

Present: Dave Canada, MJ Werner, Florence Wiggin, Nathan Merrill, Janet Johnson, Rebecca Mitchell, Chair. Lincoln Daley, Town Planner, appeared briefly.

Minutes of the May meeting were read and approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Center: At its June 11 meeting the Selectmen approved the purchase of 4 signs for the Town Center and suggested that the Commission be asked for additional guidance. The members present agreed that the simple 1716 date is preferable to Settled in 1631. Several members preferred that Stratham appear larger, and all agreed that dark green (Benjamin Moore's Essex Green being the best example) is preferable to black. Unfortunately because the Commission was consulted late in the process it is uncertain whether the color change is possible.

The Town Planner (who joined the meeting for this discussion) is applying for a NH Community Planning Grant to fund the development of zoning and regulatory alternatives for the Town Center District. On June 11 Lincoln Daley sent the chair the Rockingham Planning Commission's Model Ordinance for a Village Plan Alternative Subdivision for consideration as potentially applicable to the Town Center. The entire commission had not seen the document, but in a preliminary discussion Rebecca noted that the Purpose section of the ordinance made no mention of preserving and protecting historic structures. Nathan pointed out that the wording of the Purpose section is vital to future implementation and enforcement of an ordinance. MJ noted that the model ordinance makes copious reference to traditional architecture and site patterns, but there was general agreement that any future Town Center ordinance would be stronger if supported by detailed reference to both present and past examples within the Town Center. The members present discussed the ways in which a professional historical/architectural survey of the area could support the development of code or a regulating plan for the Town Center.

Other Planning: Following up on the May meeting discussion of the lot for sale at 5 Emery's Lane, the members present discussed the Commission's concern over the potential loss of view of and from the Community Church (the original town meetinghouse). The Commission also noted the potential loss of the historical integrity of the Emory's Lane neighborhood, a remaining intact fragment of a Stratham streetscape dating back more than two centuries. The Chair reported that there has been some interest in building an office/professional structure, requiring variances. Discussion of this centered on the potential value of the lot to the congregation of the Community Church and to the many local organizations that use its facilities. Those present agreed that a community-based fund raising campaign had a reasonable chance of success, and the Chair agreed to explore this option with some key citizens.

Wiggin Memorial Library: The NH Register of Historic Places plaque has been ordered and should be delivered and installed in time for the celebration on July 14. Those present agreed that the Commission will frame the certificate for display in the building.

300th Anniversary: Flossie Wiggin reported that the yard sale raised \$1400 for the committee. Janet Johnson will be submitting some of her photographs for consideration for the Commission's anniversary series of post cards.

Veterans' Garden: The chair submitted for payment David Kramer's bill for \$3,716 to fulfill the new lighting plan. She also submitted a \$120 invoice for brick engraving. Nancy Hansen requested permission to purchase half a dozen of blank paver bricks to serve as dummies when she removes a brick for engraving. This was approved. The price of brick engraving has risen from \$25 to \$30 per brick.

NEW BUSINESS:

Stratham Fair: The Fair dates are July 19-22, and Rebecca will be asking for volunteers to help set up our display and to be an attendant at the Celebrate Stratham tent. Nate will ask John Hazekamp for 10 copies of the video of our February program to be sold at the Fair.

Contact Information: Nancy Hansen distributed the new sheet of member's contact information that she prepared. Rebecca will deliver Georgiana's copy.

**THERE WILL BE NO JULY OR AUGUST MEETINGS UNLESS THERE IS A
NEED TO CALL A SPECIAL MEETING**

Adjourned: 9:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Mitchell