

**Stratham Heritage Commission  
Minutes of the Meeting of March 14, 2012**

**Present:** David Canada, Nathan Merrill, MJ Werner, Rebecca Mitchell  
Guest: Colleen Lake

**Minutes of the Feb. meeting were approved**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**FEBRUARY 10 PROGRAM REPORT:** Fifty eight people attended the event; \$93 was collected as donations to the Heritage Preservation Fund; \$4 collected for postcard sales; \$10 dollars collected for sale of a DVD of the 2010 program. The program was popular and attracted a good crowd of residents of all ages. There was a discussion of a possible program for 2013. One thought was to focus on going to school in Stratham, inviting Steve Taylor to present his new talk on one room schools and combining that with recollections from older residents. Current owners of Stratham's old schoolhouses would also be invited to participate.

**VETERANS' GARDEN LIGHTING:** The commission will go forward with the plan, purchasing the lighting from Rockingham Electric, and working with Dave Kramer.

**PLANNING/TOWN CENTER:** The Heritage Commission will approach the DHR about organizing an exploratory and informational presentation on Local Historic Districts and Neighborhood Historic Districts, particularly as these might address concerns about the Town Center and the Portsmouth Avenue corridor. Planning will be coordinated with the Town Planner in order to broaden the participation of relevant boards and committees as well as the public.

**HERITAGE PRESERVATION FUND:** In a discussion of planning for funding the fund, those present agreed that the commission will proceed with asking for funding at the 2013 Town Meeting. The amount requested may be contingent upon other items coming before the meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CONSERVATION EASEMENTS:** There was a discussion of conservation easements currently under consideration. Rebecca emphasized the value of retaining land around farmhouses and farm structures so that the historic landscape and context is not compromised.

**NEXT MEETING: APRIL 11**

Meeting adjourned: 8:40  
Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Mitchell