

**Stratham Heritage Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of February 13, 2013**

The meeting convened at 7 PM

Present: Janet Johnson, Florence Wiggin, Rebecca Mitchell, David Canada (intermittently), Nathan Merrill (arrived about half way through)

The minutes of the January meeting were not approved lacking a quorum of those present at that meeting. Will be presented at March meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Officers and membership: The Selectmen have approved that Nathan become a voting member and Nancy Hansen an alternate. Janet agreed to become a voting member with Floss becoming an alternate. Rebecca will send the requested change in appointment to the Selectmen. Janet moved and Floss seconded Nathan's nomination to the position of Treasurer. The motion passed unanimously. Floss moved and Janet seconded Rebecca's nomination as chair and secretary. The motion passed unanimously. These positions are effective following Town Meeting.

Emery's Lane and Planning Board: Those present agreed that the commission's letter to the Planning Board re the proposed rezoning of 5 Emery's Lane should be adapted for submission to the newspaper and for general circulation via email. Rebecca agreed to prepare a draft letter and circulate it to commission members by Monday.

In discussing the Emery's situation Rebecca expressed her wish that the commission not be perceived as a body of naysayers, rather a group committed to cooperating with others to further the goal of protected historical resources. Those present agreed that it would be useful for the commission to meet with the Town Planner and Planning Board Chair in April.

Heritage Preservation Fund: Nathan moved and Floss seconded that the commission cease its effort to seek funding this year in order not to compete with the proposed purchase of the Cushman property. The motion passed unanimously.

Banner: Rebecca presented the banner design submitted by Black Sheep Design with an estimated cost of \$85 for a 5' by 2' banner. Those present approved the design with the change of wording from "Work to Protect..." to "Working to protect..."

NEW BUSINESS:

Cushman property: There was a discussion of how to support the proposed purchase of the property at 82 Portsmouth Ave. and how to best preserve and protect the building should the town become the owner. The commission will research photos and provide some narrative history of the property. Dave will schedule a tour of the property.

NH Preservation Alliance conference: The biennial spring conference, "Historic Buildings for the Next Century: Preservation's Role in Building a Sustainable Future," will be in Plymouth on Friday, March 22. Rebecca intends to attend and will circulate additional program information when it is available.

Regional Heritage Commission meeting: The North Hampton Heritage Commission is organizing a meeting of seacoast region Heritage Commissions on Sat., April 4. It will be a morning meeting followed by lunch and wrap up session. Details to come.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Mitchell