

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

The meeting convened at 7:10 PM

Present: David Canada, Mary Jane Werner, Rebecca Mitchell

No minutes of previous meetings were approved lacking a quorum of those present at the relevant meetings.

OLD BUSINESS:

Officers and Membership: The chair reported that the Select Board approved Janet Johnson's appointment to Florence Wiggin's position, with Flossie reverting to alternate status.

Emery's Lane: The citizen's petition to rezone 5 Emery's Lane to Professional / Residential use from Residential/Agricultural was defeated with 84 Yes votes and 391 No votes. There was a discussion of the suitability of rezoning #7 Emery's Lane to Res/Ag to bring it into line with the other properties on that street.

Town Meeting & Proposed Purchase of Cushman Property: Rebecca and MJ will set up a table outside town meeting to sell Lane books, DVDs (\$5 price agreed on) and postcards. They will also distribute Bartlett-Cushman House informational flyers to voters as they enter. As Selectman Dave will speak to the Article with an illustrative presentation. After several voters have spoken from the floor Rebecca will speak about the house, its history and significance to the town. Later, if need be, MJ will speak as a Planning Board member addressing the planning objectives met by the purchase and the likelihood that the building will face demolition if not purchased now by the town.

NH Preservation Alliance Conference: Rebecca will attend the NHPA conference in Plymouth on Friday, March 22.

NEW BUSINESS:

April meeting with Planner and Planning Board Chair: Those present discussed the possible talking points submitted by Janet Johnson following her conversation with Lincoln Daley, Planner. Those present felt that the creation of a charter for the Heritage Commission is unnecessary, and the chair agreed to make sure Lincoln has a copies of all relevant state statutes, the warrant article setting up Stratham's Heritage Commission, as well as relevant text from the Master Plan and the NH Preservation Alliance's handbook, "Preserving Community Character." As it seemed that many of the discussion points reported by Janet seemed to express a wish for greater clarity about which properties or areas of town are historically significant, Rebecca agreed to create a draft list to be first circulated to commission members. David suggested that the commission chair should be receiving the agendas of Planning Board and ZBA meetings.

Demolition Review: Rebecca reported that the Demolition Review Committee (currently constituted of Nathan Merrill, Mary Jane Werner and Rebecca Mitchell as members from the Heritage Comm. and Peter Wiggin and Dana Dowling as members at large) met on Feb. 26 to review an application to demolish an outbuilding at 72 River Rd. All members were present except Werner and voted unanimously that the structure is of no historical significance and that the demolition application may proceed. Rebecca reported the finding in a letter to Terry Barnes, BICO.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Mitchell