

STRATHAM HERITAGE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2014
Land Use Conference Room

Present: Rebecca Mitchell, Florence Wiggin, Tammy Hathaway, David Canada. (as noted Lincoln Daley and Paul Deschaine attended later)

Convened: 7:05 PM

Alternates: Chairman Mitchell appointed Tammy Hathaway and Florence Wiggin to serve as voting members.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of May 1, 2014 were approved as read.

OLD BUSINESS

Bartlett-Cushman House: Mitchell and Canada reported that they had received a second estimate for roofing the house. This one was in the \$10,000-\$11,000 range. Canada will seek a third estimate from a contractor contacted by Brad Jones. While waiting to receive word on the Commission's grant application for the roofing work, the next task is to start the preparation for a RFP for finding a party to rehabilitate the building in exchange for a long-term, rent free lease. Canada and Mitchell will remind Peter Michaud, NH DHR, of his offer to help with that process.

Planning Board: Mitchell reported on Varsity Wireless's telecommunications project application. At its June 4 meeting the Planning Board approved the construction of a monopole with attached antennas with a number of conditions. Among the conditions were payments of \$9,000 to the Heritage Commission to erect a permanent outdoor public educational display and \$3,000 to the Stratham Hill Park Association for a forest management plan. Both payments are to mitigate the negative impact of the project upon the park, the adjacent properties and the historic resources in the surrounding area. Mitchell reported that she had consulted with Town Administrator Paul Deschaine, and he said the money coming to the Heritage Commission will go into the Heritage Fund, a revolving account.

Goals for 2014: Those present agreed that moving forward with the Bartlett-Cushman House and starting the work on the educational display will take much effort in the remaining six months of the year. It was also noted that the research done on the history of Stratham Hill Park will be useful not only for the planned display but also in the future should the Commission decide to seek State or National Register listing for the park. The Chair reminded members to keep in mind that the Commission is always interested in identifying potential new members.

NEW BUSINESS:

Stratham Fair: The Commission will again participate in the Celebrate Stratham Tent. Mitchell said that she will have one of the Bartlett-Cushman House posters corrected to reflect more recent research, and that she will also display the one-room schools poster prepared by MJ Werner. Flossie Wiggin reported that the 300th Anniversary Committee will be in the tent and also adding a display at Entrance B.

Application for work at Thomas Wiggin Burial site: The chair reported that Peter Wiggin is preparing his application to the NH Fish and Game Department, the landowner, for clearing work at the burial site, and asked the Commission for a letter of support. The draft letter prepared by the chair was approved, with consensus that ultimately a plan for long-term care of the site must be the goal of all interested parties.

Town Center: (at this time, approximately 8:15 PM, Lincoln Daley joined the meeting). Daley introduced the Town Center Committee's wish to schedule an event that would attract members of the public to the Town Center and provide an opportunity to support local businesses while also offering information on plans for the area. The Commission agreed that this would also be an opportunity to present historical information with a walking tour, and agreed to work with the TC Committee. Noting that Oct. 19-25 is NH History Week, Mitchell suggested that might be a good time to schedule the event.

At about 8:30 PM Paul Deschaine joined the meeting and the topic of discussion moved back to the mitigation funds coming to the Heritage Commission from Varsity Wireless. Canada asked whether there is a time limit within which the Commission's project must be completed. Deschaine will check on the law in this matter and also on what is required should the project be completed for less than \$9,000. There was also discussion of the Area Form that NHDHR required as part of the grant-supported work for sidewalks and lighting in the Town Center. Mitchell reported that she had been contacted by one historical consultant who appears to have begun work on an Area Form. Deschaine said that the Town has not signed any contract. Daley noted that the Area Form instructions seem to be quite elastic and, given the limited nature of the planned work, it is his hope that an elaborate (and commensurately expensive) Area Form will not be required.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

NOTE:

July meeting -- Prior to adjournment the Commission agreed that in July the Commission will meet at the discretion of the Chair on July 16 NOT on its usual meeting date of July 9.

August meeting – There will be no August meeting unless called by the Chair.

Minutes prepared by Rebecca Mitchell