

**Stratham Heritage Commission
Meeting Minutes
Feb 11, 2015 7:00 pm
Land Use Conference Room**

Present: Rebecca Mitchell, Nathan Merrill, David Canada, Tammy Hathaway, Wallace Stuart, Florence Wiggin. Paul Deschaine joined the meeting at approximately 8:15.

Convened: 7:00 pm by Rebecca Mitchell

Minutes: January 14, 2015 minutes were approved as presented.

Old Business:

Treasurer's Report: Nate had nothing new to report

Barn Program, Feb. 20: Plans for the program are complete. As the Ladies' Auxiliary was charging \$5 per head for refreshments, it was decided that refreshments were beyond our budget and not necessary. Room set up requirements were discussed and responsibilities were assigned. Wally will check in with Exeter Cable Network for their set up time. Nate and Becky will handle the Introductions.

Bartlett –Cushman House: Outside painting is in the 2015 Budget for both the Bartlett-Cushman house and Gifford Farm House. Becky reported that Lincoln Daley has offered to help with formatting the Defining Characteristics Report. She and Nate will work on a new revision of the RFP.

Planning Board: Lincoln reported to Becky that he had spoken with Edna Feighner at NH Division of Historical Resources about her finding that the Rollins Farm development area is archaeologically sensitive. She said that the project engineers, Jones & Beach, are familiar with the survey process. No action is required from the Town.

Town Center: As required the Commission reviewed the final plans for the Town Center improvements as prepared by CMA Engineers. Upon Nate's motion and Becky's second all voted in agreement that the planned improvements will have No Adverse Effect on the Wiggin Memorial Library, currently occupied by the Stratham Historical Society.

Technical Review Committee: Nate reported that the TRC met to consider a request from the BMW dealership on Portsmouth Ave. to expand their showroom by glassing in existing open carports. The TRC requested some landscaping improvements to mitigate visual impact of the enlargement.

Veterans Gardens: Becky reported she had 5 completed veterans' forms, and that she had sent emails to each thanking them and explaining that the brick engraving would be done in the Spring. Anticipating her retirement from work on the Garden, Nancy Hansen sent to the meeting her outline of the responsibilities involved in processing the applications for engraved bricks and

monuments. Following a discussion the Chair agreed that she would seek a community volunteer to process the veterans' forms and arrange the engraving.

New Business

Rules of Procedure: The 2002 Rules of Procedure were discussed and the Chair agreed to draft a new text incorporating the proposed changes and additions. The draft will be circulated for comment and voted on at the March meeting.

Portsmouth Avenue Corridor: The Chair said that she had discussed with the Town Planner the Commission's interest in working with the Planning Board and others to develop new zoning for the Portsmouth Avenue corridor between the Town Center and the Greenland line. The Chair pointed out that recent projects coming before the ZBA had demonstrated that commercial pressure in that area is not likely to abate, and that more than a decade had passed since the matter had been considered by the Town. Nate further pointed out that the form based code as applied in the Town Center and Gateway offered a means of protecting historic properties and the visual appearance of the area while opening possibilities for a wider range of uses.

Resident Curatorships: The Chair reported that she had been approached by Cynthia Gunn, a consultant to the NH Preservation Alliance. Gunn is investigating possible interest in the use of "resident curators," a preservation tool that has been used in several states. In the ensuing discussion both Dave Canada and Paul Deschaine expressed their skepticism and doubted the legality of such an arrangement under present NH statutes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Hathaway
Rebecca Mitchell

NEXT MEETING MARCH 11