

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

Present: Rebecca Mitchell, Nathan Merrill, Tammy Hathaway, Wallace Stuart, Chris Merrick. Guests: Paul Deschaine and Lincoln Daley arrived at 8:25.

Convened: 7:00 pm by Rebecca Mitchell

Minutes: Feb 11, 2015 minutes were approved as presented with an added word under Bartlett Cushman House: Becky and Nate will work on a new revision of the RFP.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Treasurer's Report:** Nate reported he had a bill of \$234.51 from John Porter for his February 20<sup>th</sup> presentation and travel for that evening and for the day spent in Stratham. There was a discussion of a contribution of \$200 to go to the NH Preservation Alliance barn program as a thank you for John's extra time visiting barns with Nate, for altering his presentation, and for assisting Nate with the "Local Historic Barn Tour" book. Nate will contact the Exeter Heritage Committee to see if they are willing to contribute \$100.00. Becky also reported \$80.00 in book sales at the Barn Program (\$60 for barn books and \$20 for one Samuel Lane book).

**Barn Program Feb. 20:** The program was highly successful with an audience of close to 100 attending. The Chair thanked Wally for getting the word out thru numerous press releases and for the You Tube link on the Heritage Commission's web page. John Hazekamp will be making DVD copies of the program.

**Planning Board:** A brief discussion of the Rollins Farm subdivision plans with nothing new to report. The proposed 5 lot sub division off Patriots Rd. was discussed with Nate pointing out that the rear lots abut land in agricultural use, and that in the past deeds for similar properties had language alerting owners to that use. Becky reported that she

attended the March 4 Planning Board meeting and during the Board's discussion of 2015 goals she stated the Commission's conviction that the eastern end of Portsmouth Avenue was due updated zoning to reflect both current challenges and the Town's interest in preserving the area's remaining historic character.

**Town Center:** The Commission discussed historic properties at risk in the Town Center including the Old Town Hall. There was consensus that it would be desirable to get the Old Town Hall listed on the NH or National Register of Historic Places.

**Wiggin Cemetery:** On March 3 Becky visited the site with Pete Wiggin and staff of the Great Bay Discovery Center. The group agreed upon a route for an informal access trail and marked trees for removal by Wiggin and other volunteers.

**Parker Cabin:** Becky reported that also on March 3 Rachel Stevens, Stewardship Coordinator at the Discovery Center, told her that no determination has been reached about the future of the cabin. The Discovery Center staff appears to be eager to incorporate elements of the structure as a feature in an expanded museum area.

**Bartlett –Cushman House:** Becky and Nate have submitted their revisions of the draft RFP to Dave Canada.

**Rules of Procedure:** After a review of the revised Stratham Heritage Commission Procedural Rules Nate made a motion to approve as presented and Chris Merrick seconded & all in favor with the following changes: III B. 1 Expenditures greater than 250.00 must be approved by a majority of voting members, and the Chair will consult with Paul Deschaine for appropriate language for III B. 4, procedures for use of restricted funds.

**Veterans Gardens:** Tracy McGrail has volunteered to oversee the engraving of bricks and monuments.

**Interns:** Becky is working with a UNH intern who will focus on researching and documenting the colonial period of the North East corridor of Portsmouth Ave.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**NH Preservation Alliance Preservation Conference, April 17:** Becky and Wally plan to attend and will coordinate which workshops to attend.

### **Planning Board (continued):**

Paul Deschaine and Lincoln Daley joined the meeting at 8:25. The discussion of the Portsmouth Avenue corridor from the Town Center to the Greenland town line continued. Lincoln explained the new GIS mapping that is included in the proposed 2015 Town budget. The mapping will present numerous layering possibilities including location and information for historic properties.

Lincoln explained that the defeated Warrant Articles #2 and #8 will be reviewed by the Planning Office and Planning Board. His office will schedule a working session for farmers and all interested parties. The Commission members agreed that agriculture is an important part of Stratham's cultural heritage and that the Commission will participate in deliberations affecting agriculture in Stratham.

Meeting Adjourned at 9pm

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Hathaway

Rebecca Mitchell