

**STRATHAM HERITAGE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
October 14, 2015
LAND USE CONFERENCE ROOM**

Members Present: Rebecca Mitchell, Nathan Merrill, Wallace Stuart, Chris Merrick, Tammy Hathaway, and Florence Wiggin.

Paul Deschaine joined the meeting at 8:40

Convened: 7:00 PM by Rebecca Mitchell, Chair

Tammy moved into Dave Canada's voting position in his absence.

Minutes: The minutes of the September 9, 2015, meeting were approved with the amendment on the **Coastal Workshop: Keeping New Hampshire's History above Water** that Nate would meet with Colin to review the trees adjacent to town owned historic buildings.

OLD BUSINESS:

Treasurer's Report: Nate reported that as of the Aug 31, 2015 statement the balance in the Heritage Fund was \$4,340.28 in the Heritage Commission's portion and \$29,009.07 in the 300th Anniversary Committee fund.

The chair submitted invoices for reimbursement totaling \$41.90 for expenses related to preparation of the LCHIP grant application. Payment of \$5,500 to The Stanhope Group's appraisal of 132 Portsmouth Avenue has been submitted to come out of the Heritage Preservation Fund. Nate noted that although we have slightly exceeded our administrative budget, we are well under budget in total.

Lane Homestead: The chair reported that LCHIP site visit was held on September 30. In addition to the LCHIP staff those present were Mitchell and Canada, Lincoln Daley, Jennifer Goodman and Maggie Stier (NH Preservation Alliance), and Steve Bedard, preservation contractor. The announcement of the Preservation Alliance's Seven to Save awards will be made on October 21, 2015. In light of the appraisal of the property prepared by The Stanhope Group, Dave and Becky have scheduled a follow up visit with the Neilys and their Realtor. In addition the budget submitted with the LCHIP grant application will have to be revised.

Bartlett –Cushman House: Dave and Becky have met with a local builder to go ahead with providing a basic rehabilitation estimate. The \$700 fee for the estimate will come from the \$1,350 budgeted for expenses associated with developing the RFP. All present agreed that including an estimate will help strengthen the RFP.

Planning Board: Chris reported on the Verizon communications tower project and the Rollins Farm subdivision.

Agriculture: The 3rd public meeting with the Rockingham County Planning Commission and the agriculture working group was held on 10/13/15. Nate reported that there have been some language changes and minor adjustments to the current zoning to aid in clarification of the

language. Nate further reported on the issues relating to agricultural tourism. **The Chair, noting that agricultural tourism helps to preserve farms, farm structures and agricultural landscapes, made a motion that the commission supports a broad definition of agricultural tourism with allowance for flexibility of uses. The motion was seconded by Wally and was passed unanimously.**

Barn Easements: The two new applications pending review by the Board of Selectmen are for barns at 148 Stratham Heights Rd. and 2 Emery's Lane. Both Becky and Nate have reviewed the applications and support the easements. **Nate made a motion that the Heritage Commission supports the applications. Chris seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

February Program: Becky is exploring putting together a program on the Lane Homestead. The commission agreed this was a good topic.

NEW BUSINESS:

Preliminary discussion of 2016 Budget: Becky and Nate will work on a draft of the 2016 budget to be presented at the commission's November meeting. Paul mentioned it would be wise to outline any future plans and goals.

Town Center: Paul discussed with the committee that the Town Center streetscape improvements project has a target date set for starting work in early spring.

November meeting: In spite of the fact that the second Wednesday in November is Veterans' Day the commission agreed to meet as usual.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

NEXT MEETING: November 11, 2015; 7 PM

Submitted by,
Tammy Hathaway
Rebecca Mitchell