

**STRATHAM HERITAGE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
June 10, 2015
LAND USE CONFERENCE ROOM**

Present: Rebecca Mitchell, Nathan Merrill, Tammy Hathaway, Wallace Stuart and David Canada

Convened: 7:15 PM by Rebecca Mitchell, Chairman

Minutes: The minutes of the May 13, 2015 meeting were approved

OLD BUSINESS:

Treasurer's Report: A discussion on the operating budget included: Most of the \$300 allotted for administrative expenses has been used. However, the training/conferences and survey/consultants line items will likely be underutilized, providing some cushion if we go over on administrative expenses. \$2,000 - \$2,500 is still available in the survey and consultants account. \$4,160 is the 4/30/2015 balance in the Heritage Revolving Fund.

Bartlett Cushman: There has been no response to the RFP so far. Becky has spoken with Steve Bedard and he felt the RFP was good but we need to get the word out to more Realtors, architects, builders, project managers. The preliminary proposal expires on June 15, 2015 and with that in mind Dave proposed to extend the deadline and have the Realtors market the RFP. Dave will contact David Choate. Dave also reported that the painting may not get done this year due to significant exterior carpentry repair work that needs to be done on both the Bartlett Cushman and the Gifford house.

Non Public Session: At 7:45 pm, Nate moved and Dave seconded a motion to go into non-public session in order to discuss private negotiations with a property owner. Motion carried unanimously. At 8:15pm Dave made a motion to come out of non-public session and seal the minutes, Becky seconded; all in favor.

Lane Homestead: The commission voted to authorize Becky to apply for an LCHIP grant and to prepare a nomination for the NH Preservation Alliance's Seven to Save program. Nate said that, given the complexity of the grant and the June 26 deadline, the Town should hire a grant writer to work with Becky. Dave made a motion to authorize himself and Becky to go to the Selectmen for permission to hire a grant writer; Nate seconded and all in favor. Dave made a motion to go to the Selectmen regarding an appraisal on the Lane Homestead for a potential preservation easement; Wally seconded and all in favor. The commission agreed to proceed with preparing to nominate the Lane Homestead to the NH Preservation Alliance's Seven to Save 2015 program. The Commission discussed the possibility of creating a historic district along Portsmouth Avenue and what the boundaries might be.

Town Center: Becky and Nate have drafted a letter to send to Alex Ray, owner of the Common Man Restaurants, in reference to #148 Portsmouth Ave and the possibilities it offers. Ray has

extensive experience with renovating historic properties in a sensitive manner for reuse as successful mid-scale restaurants.

Agriculture meetings: Mike Houghton, chairman of the Economic Development Committee will be running a campaign to highlight Stratham farms. Becky will be writing an article for the September issue of Stratham magazine on the history of farming in Stratham. An ad hoc committee is being formed to work on proposed changes to the Town's agriculturally-related zoning regulations. Nate will be serving on this committee, along with several other Stratham farmers, town staff members, Mike Houghton from the Planning Board, and it will be led by Theresa Walker and Glenn Greenwood of Rockingham Planning Commission.

Varsity Wireless telecommunications tower: Becky reported that the Town finally received from Varsity Wireless the agreed-upon mitigation funds. So we now need to commence working on the sign panel content for Stratham Hill Park.

NEW BUSINESS: Whether or not to hold July and August meetings was discussed, and a decision was made that meetings will not be held unless deemed necessary by the Chairman.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

NEXT MEETING: September 9, 2015; 7 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Tammy Hathaway
Rebecca Mitchell