

**Kingston Heritage Commission
Draft Minutes of Public Meeting
June 25, 2015**

Meeting notice was posted at Town hall and Website.

Meeting was called to order at 7:05

Members in Attendance: Bob Bean, George Korn, Holly Ouellette, Jennifer Ramsey-Feoli, Gail Ramsey, Ernie Landry, Charlotte Boutin, Jane Christie, Ellen Faulconer. – Excused –Debra Powers. Jennifer Ramsey-Feoli was designated as a voting member for tonight.

Previous minutes: Motion to accept the May 28, 2015 minutes made by George and seconded by Jennifer. Motion passed unanimously.

Town heritage brochure update: Deb Powers sent out a message asking the brochure subcommittee members to select a date for their first meeting. Ellen indicated that the HDC is in the process of updating the walking tour of HD-1. This may have some overlap with the work of the HC brochure subcommittee. Eric Onufer, a UNH student is doing the revision as part of his graduate work. The revision will likely shorten the tour. It's also possible that HDC will be preparing a driving tour to include some significant sites outside the Historic District. Mr. Onufer appears to be very knowledgeable about many of the historic features of the town, including HD-1. It was suggested that Mr. Onufer be invited to a meeting with the HC brochure subcommittee, once that committee determines the scope of their project.

Ellen indicated that there have been some discussions with an individual to become involved in writing a grant proposal for repairs to the Nichols building. The individual has written grants for a number of projects. She would likely be looking at a number of grant possibilities, including LCHIP. Rich St. Hilaire will approach the Selectmen to gain their approval. The individual has looked at the Nichols Building and will need additional information regarding the historical context within which it exists.

Jennifer presented the group copies of a brochure on Danville's Historic Buildings and Sites by the Danville Heritage Commission as an example of what another local town has produced. She also did some research on the cost of the brochure from N. Hampton that Bob presented to the HC at the May meeting and found that the cost was approximately \$6000.

There was discussion around sharing of information and resources between the HC and HDC regarding the brochures and Bob noted that while there are similarities, the scope of work is different. Additional discussion occurred regarding the number of projects planned by all the historic groups and the potential for major overlap. There was agreement that the large meeting of all the historic groups needs to occur soon. Ernie will talk with Debby about scheduling the meeting.

Bandstand: Ernie mentioned that Bob Pothier would begin work on the Bandstand in early July. One item that needs follow-up is landscaping. Ernie indicated that he will meet with Rich St. Hilaire and his staff to get their suggestions since they will be the folks maintaining it. Holly mentioned that Kathy Houghton from the Library Trustees and Sharon Farrington from the Exeter junior women's club have the plants that Rich previously removed. Ernie will talk with them to get their suggestions on the landscaping as well.

Grace Daley: Ellen indicated that she has been trying to contact multiple organizations about possible re-use of the property with little success. She will try to contact them again more directly.

Ernie wondered whether the Grace Daley building might be a good candidate for the "lost history project" since its future viability is still in question. Everyone agreed. Bob will take the lead as he had done with the Cheney Mill site with assistance from others. Jane suggested that Bob contact Stacey Smoyer and Lindsey McDougall who have accumulated considerable history on the building. It was also suggested that Don Kemp be asked to provide some history regarding Grace Daley and the building since he has good personal knowledge of both. Ellen asked for a copy of the information obtained from Stacey and Lindsay so she can share that with the organizations she's contacting.

Documentation Update: Bob reported that he is in the process of finishing the Cheney Mill documentation. He will prepare copies to be housed at the Community Library and the Museum. He is in the process of completing the documentation of version 1 of the tour of the Bartlett house. This will include a video tour and some Bartlett history from Ruth Albert as well as some still photography. Bob has been trying to get permission from the owners of the the Hazel Hansen property on Rte. 107 to document the property but hasn't had much luck in contacting them. He will continue to pursue it.

Grant Listing: Ernie indicated that he has obtained some preliminary information and hopes to obtain additional information from DHR. When he has it assembled he will share it with Ellen and Jane for discussion and review.

Kingston Days: Ernie explained what information was presented last year. Some suggestions for this year included a presentation on the Documentation/Lost History Project by showing the videos and documentation from Cheney Mill and the Bartlett house and also showing a display of photos documenting the progress made on renovation of the bandstand to this date.

A discussion occurred regarding how the museum handles the need to provide access to the museum displays to disabled individuals during Kingston Days. Jane indicated that the KCL has a number of videos available for viewing there. Jennifer brought up the notion of using QR codes on things like the brochure, at historic sites and markers, etc. to make more information accessible to anyone interested. The group thought this would be a good idea to pursue in the future. Ernie will send out message to members asking about their availability to cover the booth on Saturday.

Board of Selectmen Update: George presented a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) proposing a method for handling the management of the Nichols Building. This proposal is a result of discussions that occurred after a number of folks attended a meeting held by the Preservation Alliance regarding possible ways to repurpose historic libraries that have been replaced by newer community libraries.

The proposal would designate the Nichols building as the Nichols Heritage Center. The Heritage Commission would be responsible for managing and advocating for the building and the Historic Museum Committee responsible for programmatic aspects of the ongoing activities within the building. The fiscal responsibility for and maintenance of the center would be the responsibility of the Board of Selectmen. The Town Building and Maintenance Department would be responsible for maintenance, repair and upkeep.

Ellen mentioned that it was acknowledged at the last Library Board of Trustees meeting that both the Trustees and the Museum Committee stepped up when there was a need and have done great work in making the Nichols Museum what it is today. She also indicated that the trustees felt that they no longer need to be involved in maintaining two buildings as long as the Nichols building will continue to be protected.

Discussion ensued regarding whether this agreement is consistent with the provisions of the Nichols Trust. There were various opinions expressed ranging from the notion that it is consistent with the trust to the notion that the town would need to break the trust to legally effect the agreement. There was discussion around the notion that it is not uncommon for

these types of trusts, that have been in place for well over a hundred years and involving buildings which no longer suit the initial purpose, to be broken more frequently.

George mentioned that at this point the Selectmen are not inclined to take action to break the trust since they believe the memorandum is consistent with the intent of the trust. If it is found that legal action is necessary to break the trust that could be pursued. The key at this point is for all involved parties to review the document and decide whether they are in agreement or whether modifications will need to be made to make this workable. The group agreed to review the proposal and come to the July meeting prepared to discuss their ideas, concerns, etc. so we can make a reasoned, well thought out decision.

Subsequent discussion regarding a variety of topics like whether the museum will need a paid staff if the Library is not involved, potential difficulties of providing handicap access at the museum, etc. will need to be resolved down the line.

The group agreed that this MOU document should not be construed as minimizing the amount and quality of work that has been done over the last several years by representatives of the Library and the Museum Committee.

Next meeting is on July 23, 2015 at Kingston Community Library.

Holly Ouellette volunteered to take minutes for the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Submitted by Ernie Landry