

KINGSTON HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES (DRAFT)  
March 24, 2016

Posting was at the Town Hall and on the Website.

Debby Powers, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM in the Community Room at the Kingston Community Library.

**Members/Guests in Attendance:** Deb Powers; Ernie Landry; Gail Ramsey; Bob Bean; Holly Ouellette; Jennifer Ramsey-Feoli; Jane Christie (Alternate); Walter Roy (Guest); and Ruth Albert (Guest)

**Excused absents:** Ellen Faulconer; Charlotte Boutin (HDC) & George Korn (BOS)

**Previous Minutes:** February 25, 2016 minutes accepted as revised – motion made by Ernie Landry, seconded by Bob Bean– approved.

**Election of Officers:** A discussion of the election of HC officers for the next year followed the discussion of the charrette (below), and HC members voted unanimously to retain the officers already in place: Deb Powers as chair and Ernie Landry as vice chair and Gail Ramsey as treasurer. There is no secretary; committee members volunteer to share the responsibility of taking the minutes on a monthly basis.

## STATUS UPDATES

**Brochure:** Jennifer reported that she and the brochure committee have selected the photographs for the brochure and are in the process of drafting the text. QR codes on the brochure and relevant links on the Town website were discussed. The next Brochure Committee meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2016. The necessity of securing releases for the photographs that will be included was discussed. The brochure budget includes \$550.00 from the Town, hopefully to be matched by a Certified Local Government (CLG) grant of \$550.00. Jenn will send draft of brochure to all Heritage Commission members for historical review, comments, and editing.

**Grace Daley:** There is no change since last meeting; Isaiah 58 is still interested and continuing to pursue this opportunity.

**Charrette Planning:** Deb announced that Charrette Planning meetings are occurring every other Thursday with the next one scheduled for March 31. Charrette dates in Kingston are June 2-4, 2016 beginning with a Plan New Hampshire “shift workshop” focusing on “new thinking” for today’s world is scheduled for June 2. Deb urged HC members to participate in as many sessions as they are able and stressed the importance of institutional responsibility, ensuring that institutional leaders continue to work together and remain accountable for achieving desired outcomes. Debby, Ernie and Dustin Ramey (SAU 17 School Board) will speak with Principal

Brian Stack to see if community breakfasts and other sessions can be held at Sanborn Regional High School.

Charrette attendance was discussed with emphasis on the fact that the charrette's success depends on participation of the various stakeholders in the Kingston and, where relevant, Newton communities. A major marketing effort is required. Plans for invitations were discussed including: Trustees of Trust Fund for Sanborn/Seminary Trustees, School Board Members, Members of Local Boards and Committees including BOS, HDC, Museum Committee, etc. Invitations to participate in the Charrette will be mailed to all citizens, businesses, etc. Virginia Morse and Lynn Gainty are seeking food donations; a boxed supper is being considered for the community dinner on Friday, June 3.

**Bandstand:** Bob Pothier is taking pieces to his workshop and working on them. He has committed to having most of the work done by the end of May. Painting with special Swedish paint must occur in warm weather and will be done by the Town Maintenance Team in June and the roof finished by Pothier by the end of June. The LCHIP Grant waiver extension is approved to 06/30/2016.

**Demolition:** The demolition ordinance is on hold due to feedback from BOS and Planning Board. The HC remains concerned about the potential demolition of properties that add value—cultural and historical—to our town-scape and will develop a plan to advise property owners that the HC recognizes their properties as valuable in these respects. Bob and Ernie will continue as point persons on the HC for this issue. They reported that their recent research shows that of the 182 houses not in the Historic Districts when the town survey was done (date???), 30 (17%) have disappeared. There was discussion of Seavey's and the Robert Hayes property at 32 Exeter Road.

**Nichols Building/Library Trustee Update:** Jane reported that the Library Trustees and Selectmen had all signed the *CY Pres* Petition prepared by Town Attorney Sumner Kalman to be forwarded to the court for the purpose of breaking the Nichols Trust and using the Nichols building as a component of the Town's museum complex. This document is based on an earlier MOU agreed on unanimously by the Library Trustees and the BOS stating that the Nichols Building would be maintained by the Town with internal management in the hands of the Kingston Museum Committee and the Kingston Heritage Commission to "provide stewardship of the historic preservation of the Nichols building and advocate for its maintenance and repair." Richard St. Hilaire has a draft structural report on the status of the building, and Museum Committee Chair Ruth Albert and Museum Volunteer Walt Roy advised the HC to review relevant materials—particularly issues regarding the roof for the restoration of which the Museum Committee has received a Moose Plate grant—and move forward as quickly as possible. They noted that we had a very short window of time to contract the roof work, if we wished to accomplish it this summer and take advantage of discounted prices on the necessary materials. Ellen Faulconer, a library trustee as well as a Heritage Commission member, has agreed to serve as Heritage Commission liaison with Rich St Hilaire on the project.

**Museum Update:** Ruth and Bob noted that the Museum is planning and preparing new exhibits for the summer season and Kingston Days. Some will be ready May 21 when the Kingston Community Library and Nichols celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the KCL. Jane

spoke briefly about an Oral History Project the Museum is undertaking in preparation for Kingston's 325<sup>th</sup> in 2019. This 3-year (and on-going) project will document in audio and video the history of Kingston as remembered by a variety of citizens. People who would like to help as interviewers, recorders, transcribers, interviewees are encouraged to contact the Museum Committee as soon as possible and to attend a training at the KCL on May 14<sup>th</sup>, presented by Jo Radner, one of the nation's leading folklorists and oral historians. A grant from New Hampshire Humanities is making this opportunity available to Kingston and Seacoast communities.

**Documentation Update:** Bob Bean's and Walt Roy's work on documenting the interior and exterior of the Bartlett House as almost completed.

**Peter Michaud Presentation:** Ernie announced that Peter Michaud, the Department of Historical Resources' (DHR) National Register, Tax Incentives and Covenants Coordinator, will do a presentation in Kingston on May 5 or 12 at 3:30 PM on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation. Some members of the HC have heard it and believe it is a valuable opportunity for the entire HC to attend as well Rich St Hilaire and his staff and members of the HDC and Museum Committee as well as owners of historic homes/barns. As soon as the date is confirmed, the HC will announce it publicly and provide a special invitation to the groups in town most likely to be interested and find the information useful.

Deb called attention to the fact that Kingston was recently cited on the DHR website for its accomplishments in historical planning.

**Other Updates:** The **Old House & Barn Expo** was held March 12 and 13; Ruth and Ernie went, found it well worth the time and encouraged others to attend in future.

The **new Town Website** offers residents the opportunity to sign up for notices and emergency notifications. All were encouraged to check it out.

The **next Heritage Commission meeting** will be on Thursday, April 28, 2016 at the Kingston Community Library.

Motion to adjourn by Ernie, seconded by Bob at 9:17 PM

Minutes taken by Jane Christie