

KINGSTON HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES (DRAFT)

April 28, 2016

At Kingston Community Library

Meeting announcement was posted: at the Town Hall; and the Website.

Debby Powers called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M.

Members in Attendance: Debby Powers, Ernie Landry; Bob Bean, Gail Ramsey, Holly Ouellette, Charlotte Boutin (HDC), Alternate: Jane Christie

Members Absent: George Korn, Selectmen's Rep., Jennifer Ramsey-Feoli, Alternate

Previous Minutes: Minutes from March 26, 2016 were discussed. A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Bob Bean and seconded by Gail Ramsey. They were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Status Updates:

Brochure: An update from Jennifer was distributed. The next meeting of the brochure sub-committee was scheduled for May 19th at 7:00 PM. Once the remaining few items are worked out the brochure will be brought to this commission and the Museum committee for review.

Grace Daley: Debby indicated that the Isaiah 58 organization is still interested in utilizing the Grace Daley house and is continuing to work to resolve various issues with the town. We will have a full update from Ellen Faulconer for the next meeting.

Charette Planning: Debby updated the group on the status of the Charette. She reiterated the purpose of the Charrette and indicated that it will take place on Friday and Saturday, June 3rd and 4th. A SHIFT workshop will be held on Thursday, June 2nd. Following the update a discussion ensued regarding the current demolition of the Headmaster's House and barn at the Sanborn Seminary complex. When the Commission became aware of the pending demolition Debby coordinated with the School Board to seek to have the demolition delayed at least until after the Charrette. After that communication she believed that would be the case. However, demolition on the house began shortly thereafter. As it turned out, there was some confusion on the subject since a contract had been signed for the demolition of the Headmaster's House and it proceeded. It was Debby's understanding that no demolition of the barn would occur until after the Charette.

This incident again reflected the need for some way to avoid this type of situation in the future. The members agreed that we need to continue to look at the possibility of a formal procedure that would at least allow the possibility of some sort of review and recommendation by the Heritage Commission prior to a demolition. Ernie indicated that there is a process through which the Building Inspector notifies the Heritage Commission when they receive a request for a demolition permit on a historic building. This is how the heritage Commission was notified of the proposed demolition of the Headmaster's House. The group agreed that, in addition to the current procedure, we should continue to pursue a Demolition Review Ordinance for the town. It

was also suggested that we take steps to raise public awareness of the need for some sort of review.

At this point Debby updated the group on the committee established to look at options for a future Fire Department facility. She indicated that there are no preconceived ideas. The group is looking at a variety of options including renovating the current fire station, purchasing the Alberts property at the intersection of Rte. 125 and Main St. and constructing a new station there or at the Fairgrounds, building a municipal complex, etc. The group has looked at facilities in a number of towns to get design ideas. The review is ongoing.

Bandstand: Progress is on-going, although there is still much to do. The deadline for completion remains as June 30th. We will likely need to request an extension.

Demolition: This discussion followed on from some of the issues raised in the discussion about the Charrette Planning. The group discussed the need to continue to work on a Demolition Review Ordinance for the town. Letters to the editor about the importance of maintaining the historic building stock in town might be a good first step. In early October we should approach the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board to gain their support for an ordinance. In the meantime we will get letters out to the owners of historic properties as was agreed at previous meetings. Ernie indicated that he is still working on the database of addresses for those letters.

Nichols Building: Debby indicated that the paperwork necessary to move forward on the changes to the trust has been signed by the Board of Selectmen and the Library Trustees. Town Counsel will now begin the process. We need to look at the LCHIP process and determine what type of grant to go for to continue efforts to repair the building. Jane mentioned the amount and variety of work being done by the Museum volunteers – building needed items like easels, archiving material, developing displays, etc. The Museum will be opening with new exhibits on May 21st. The plan is to have a number of rotating exhibits to keep the interest and enthusiasm fresh.

Jane reminded the group about the Oral History Project the Museum is undertaking in preparation for Kingston's 325th anniversary in 2019. People who would like to participate are encouraged to contact the Museum Committee as soon as possible. Training is being conducted at the KCL on May 14th. The program is being presented through a grant from the NH Humanities Council. Jo Radner, a recognized authority on this process, will be the instructor.

Documentation: Bob indicated that the work on the Bartlett documentation is nearing completion. He recently completed the genealogy portion and received two pictures from Colonial Williamsburg for inclusion in the final product. He has had correspondence with Carol Beard, Chairman of the Danville Heritage Commission regarding the donation of a copy of the Cheney documentation to the Danville Library. Bob has still received no response from the Hazel Hansen Heirs (owners of 53 Marshall Rd. property) or from the owners of the former Phillips property on Farm Rd. regarding the potential to document those properties.

Training on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards: Ernie reminded folks that Peter Michaud, (National Register, Preservation Tax Incentives and Easements Coordinator) from

NHDHR will be here on Thursday, May 12th from 3:30 to 5:30 P.M. to conduct training on the Secretary's Standards.

Heritage Website: Debby led the discussion by asking if there were any volunteers. Discussion ensued regarding the critical decision of choosing a hosting company and the importance of the software design. We need to be careful about who we choose and ensure that they have technical competence to meet our needs and are reputable. Jane suggested the possibility of consulting with John Chandler, a local resident, who is familiar with web design.

HDC Update: Charlotte indicated that the First Congregational Church has informally come to the HDC about the possibility of adding 16 feet to the front of the church. They would also possibly be moving the bell tower in the process.

Next Meeting: May 26th at 7:00 P.M. at the Kingston Community Library.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Minutes were compiled and submitted by Ernie Landry