

**Town of Kingston, NH Heritage Commission
Public Meeting Minutes
May 26, 2022**

Call to Order: Chairman Ernie Landry called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. The meeting was held in person at the Kingston Community Library.

Members present:

Richard Wilson (BOS Ex Officio)	Ernie Landry	Eileen Clifford
Holly Ouellette	Ralph Murphy (Alternate)	Bob Bean
Charlotte Boutin		

Members Absent: Virginia Morse (HDC Ex officio)

Also present: Walter Roy

April 28, 2022 meeting minutes: Motion to accept minutes as written made by Ms. Boutin and seconded by Mr. Bean. Motion passed unanimously.

Updates -

Stained Glass Window project – Mr. Landry indicated that bids for the project are due to the Selectmen’s office by close of business on June 2nd. We expect the bids to be opened at the June 6th Selectmen’s meeting. There is a possibility of four bidders. The work group is still working on the flyer and brochure and touching base with potential donors.

Moose Plate Grant – The town has received an Invitation to Apply for a Moose Plate Grant from the NH Division of Historical Resources (NHDHR). As part of the process the Town submitted a Request for Archaeological Assessment to NHDHR which is required because the Town will be doing some excavation in a historic area as part of the project. The State Archaeologist approved the excavation plan without requiring a preliminary Phase 1A archaeological assessment. We have requested letters of support for the project from the Historic District Commission, Historical Museum Committee, Friends of the Museum, Board of Selectmen and the Principal of DJ Bakie school. Mr. Landry asked for comments on a proposed letter of support from the Heritage Commission which he drafted. We are in the process of preparing the application which is due on June 24th. We already possess many of the required attachments (estimates, historic building assessment, etc.).

Plains Cemetery Celebration – Mr. Murphy and Ms. Boutin are working on this project. Mr. Murphy gave a brief summary of their discussions including a possible date of August 13th, assembly of the participants as close to the cemetery as possible, use of the Plains for parking, etc. Timing of the event is also dependent on availability of the National Register plaque for the cemetery.

National Register Plaques – Ms. Morse is leading this project. Since she was unable to attend tonight's meeting, she will update the group at the next meeting.

Documentation – Mr. Bean indicated that the group is making good progress on the Sanborn Seminary documentation, having prepared the complete first draft and selected all the pertinent photos. They will be working to refine the product. The next project will be the current/to be demolished fire station.

Membership/PR – The Planning Board is placing an advertisement in the Carriage Towne News soliciting members/volunteers for all committees with vacancies. Mr. Wilson indicated that a message is also streaming on the town cable channel.

Cemetery Walk/brochure – This is a work in progress.

New Business –

Training Needs Discussion – Mr. Landry reported on a letter received from the Chairperson of the Danville Heritage Commission regarding the lack of training available to Heritage Commissions (HC) and Historic District Commissions (HDC) from state organizations like the Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) and others. She is conducting an informal training needs survey and seeks our input. The suggestions centered around – basic expectations of HCs and HDCs, summary of tools to use in historic preservation, and the programs that are available to historic preservation organizations. Mr. Landry asked the group to send him any other thoughts they may have.

Mr. Landry also mentioned that both the NHDHR and the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance (NHPA) have considerable information available on their web sites and suggested that members could do some individual exploration on those sites. The group also discussed the possibility of setting up training via Zoom when feasible.

Kingston Days – The group discussed the potential theme for this year's Kingston Days booth display. It was decided that the main theme would center around the Stained-Glass Window Restoration Project and would also include displays of past accomplishments and future projects.

Board of Selectmen and Other Town Organization Updates –

Mr. Wilson indicated that the town scanning project has begun, and that the system appears to be very easy to use. To date, all the town's meeting minutes have been scanned as have some of the property files.

Ms. Ouellette indicated that the Conservation Commission and Lake Association are planning to erect signs identifying the limits of the Aquifer Protection District in town. Those organizations wondered if the Heritage Commission would be interested in partnering with them and contributing some funds to the project. After some discussion by the group, and in order to get a decision, a motion was made by Mr. Landry and seconded by Ms. Ouellette to contribute some funding to the project. After additional discussion, including the fact that this project was not directly related to the HC mission, the motion was disapproved unanimously.

Next Meeting – June 23, 2022 at 6:30 PM at the Kingston Community Library.

Adjournment – Mr. Landry adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM

Disclaimer: HC minutes are reviewed and approved (with or without amendments) at the next HC meeting. The original minutes are posted as submitted; any amendments may be found in the minutes of the subsequent meeting in which the amendments were made.