

Town of Kingston, NH Heritage Commission
Public Meeting Minutes
June 23, 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	Virginia Morse (HDC ExOfficio)	

Also present: Walter Roy

May 26, 2022 meeting minutes: Motion to accept minutes as written made by Mr. Bean and seconded by Ms. Boutin. In discussion, Mr. Bean indicated that the documentation portion of the minutes should indicate that a “partial first draft” was completed rather than a “complete first draft”. Motion by Mr. Bean to accept the minutes as amended and seconded by Ms. Ouellette. Motion passed unanimously.

Updates -

Stained Glass Window project – Mr. Landry indicated that the town received three bids for the project. The bids are currently being reviewed.

Moose Plate Grant – Mr. Landry indicated that the Moose Plate Grant to obtain funding for rehabilitation of the Grace Daley Barn was submitted to the NH Division of Historical Resources (NHDHR). The town is requesting a \$20,000 grant. The next step is will be for NHDHR to conduct a review panel this summer to determine successful grantees. Grant requests over \$10,000 require Executive Council review which would occur in the fall. If we are successful, we will likely hear results near the end of the year. Under these conditions, work might not begin until spring. If that is the case, we will need to encumber the funds approved at town meeting before the end of the year.

Plains Cemetery Celebration – Mr. Landry raised the question of whether in would be prudent to delay the celebration until the 300th anniversary of the cemetery in 2025. He indicated his feeling that there are too many tasks that would need to be accomplished if we want to have the cemetery in a condition where we would be proud to present it to the public and especially to state level dignitaries. Those tasks would include rehabilitation of the wellhead and pump, obtaining and mounting a National Register plaque, resetting and cleaning stones and monuments, rehabilitation of the Hearse House, clean up of the perimeter and fences, etc.

Mr. Landry also indicated that the Heritage Commission is an advisory group and that the overall responsibility for the cemetery rests with the Trustees of the Trust Funds. He feels that the Commission should offer its support to the Trustees of the Trust Funds to work on rehabilitating the cemetery and to participate in planning the future celebration. He also suggested that there may be opportunities for some lesser public awareness activity about the cemetery in the interim.

Motion by Ms. Clifford to postpone the Plains Cemetery celebration to coincide with the 300th anniversary of the cemetery, with the date to be determined. Seconded by Ms. Boutin. Motion passed unanimously.

National Register Plaques – Ms. Morse outlined the results of her research to date. She indicated that the plaques are generally either cast in bronze or aluminum. Sizes vary up to approximately 12" X 15". Wording can be either standard or custom, with custom wording requiring additional coats. She showed an example of what a plaque would generally look like. Cost for a standard 12" X 15" bronze plaque is approximately \$500. Ms. Morse will inquire about costs for custom plaques. Ms. Morse will be speaking with owners of the other National Register sites in Kingston to make them aware of our effort and to see if they would like to purchase National Register plaques for their properties.

Documentation – Mr. Bean indicated that the group is continuing to work on the Sanborn Seminary documentation. Photos are complete and Steve Sousa is continuing to work on the write-up.

Mr. Bean indicated that the Peaslee Tavern is up for sale and that it may be a good candidate for a documentation project. The tavern is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. Roy indicated that the Museum was contacted to see if they were interested in photographing the building. It evidently maintains many of the original features from the late 1700s and early 1800s. Mr. Bean and Mr. Roy will coordinate the site visit with the appropriate parties.

Membership/PR – The Town has placed several notices in the paper and a notice on the Town web page seeking members and alternates for the various committees with vacancies. Information is also on our web site and our bulletin board.

Cemetery Walk/brochure – Mr. Wilson indicated that he continues to receive material from individuals regarding brochures from other cemeteries. Work is continuing.

Kingston Days – Mr. Landry asked if anyone was interested in helping to develop the Kingston Days display. Ms. Clifford indicated that she will help. The major theme will be

the Stained-Glass Window project. This will be an opportunity to solicit sponsors. Mr. Wilson suggested that might be a good time to sponsor a 50/50 raffle to get funds for the window project.

Reminders –

- The town-wide employee/volunteer cookout will be on July 8th at noon at the Town Garage
- There will be a rolling tribute to Richard St. Hilaire on July 9th. Individuals should arrive at the High School around 8:30 to begin staging the line for departure at 9:00. The route will be the same as for the tribute to Chief Briggs.

New Business –

Mr. Landry indicated that Ms. Clifford had asked if there could be an agenda item to see if there is interest in compiling a contact list of members of the Commission, like the one prepared when the Commission was established. Through discussion, the group determined that individuals possessed enough information to contact each other and that a listing was unnecessary.

Board of Selectmen and Other Town Organization Updates –

Mr. Wilson indicated that the town has signed a contract for audio/visual enhancements at Town Hall. Scanning is continuing.

Ms. Ouellette indicated that the Kingston Lake Association is sponsoring a Lake Smart discussion at their meeting on June 29th at 7:00 PM at the Kingston Community Library.

Next Meeting – July 28, 2022 at 6:30 PM at the Kingston Community Library.

Adjournment – Mr. Landry adjourned the meeting at 7:40 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.