

Kingston Heritage Commission
Draft Meeting Minutes
03/23/2017
Kingston Town Hall

Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm

Absent: Jennifer Ramsey-Feoli, Jane Christie

Present: Debra Powers, Ernie Landry, Bob Bean, Gail Ramsey, Holly Ouellette, Charlotte Boutin (HDC Rep.), George Korn (Selectmen's Rep.)

Motion to accept minutes of February 23, 2017 – Motion by Bob Bean, Second by Charlotte Boutin. Jef Flanders-McDougall indicated that there should be an "e" in the word "Daley" (Grace Daley house). Minutes were accepted with Mr. Korn abstaining.

Election – both articles affecting historical preservation were successful.

Article 16 authorizes the town to raise and appropriate \$56,000 for repairs to the Nichols Building. The vote affirms the voter's interests in supporting historic preservation. This also means that the work on the roof and cement at the front of the building can progress.

Article 18 authorizes the Selectmen or their designee(s) to enter into discussions with the Sanborn Regional School District for potential transfer of the Sanborn Seminary property to the town. The yes vote signifies the voter's interests in seeing the property utilized in some productive way. There was discussion of whether all or portions of the property will be included in the negotiations. This will be the major focus of discussions at the next Envision Kingston II meeting on April 6th at 7:00 at Town Hall.

Grants – The Town has been approved for a Certified Local Government grant to prepare a Historical Resources Chapter to the town Master Plan. Selectmen have signed the grant agreement. This is a 60/40 matching grant. CLG will provide \$15,000 in funding for a contractor and the town is expected to provide approximately \$11,000 in match, a large portion will be based on volunteer time. Active participation by Commission members in all aspects of the project, including meetings, is extremely important.

The town submitted a Letter of Intent to apply for a Moose Plate grant for restoration of the stained glass windows at the Nichols Building and has been invited to submit a formal grant request. Charlotte indicated that the Kingston Improvement and Historical Society recently had the stained glass windows at the Church on the Plains restored and suggested they be contacted for information on a possible contractor.

The Chairman asked if any members were interested in helping to work on the grants. No interest was expressed and the Chairman asked members to contact her if they did have interest.

Brochure – The brochure continues to be a work in progress. We are waiting for good weather to get the pictures for the brochure.

Signs - Debby asked if anyone was interested in taking the lead on the sign project. No interest at this point. Discussion centered on the fact that the project will need participation from a number of parties since all of the signs should conform to an overall set of guidelines.

Nichol's building – Ernie mentioned that Rich St. Hilaire indicated that the slate roof project should begin this spring. The contractor will be Leone and Butler roofing. A purchase order has been issued and a contract should be signed soon. Also, Rich expects to be able to issue a purchase order soon for completion of the stonework in front of the building.

Selectman Korn indicated that we should have certain criteria in the contracts to ensure the project is completed on time and appropriately. After discussion, it was decided that the contract should contain a firm completion date, penalties for not completing the project on time (contractor reimbursement for any grant money lost), completion benchmarks if the contractor expects incremental payment and that the work should be done in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Rehabilitation. Ernie will discuss this with Mr. St. Hilaire.

Jef Flanders-McDougall asked when the re-grading around the building would be completed. The initial plan was to have the re-grading done at the time that Main Street is repaved. Ernie will check with Mr. St. Hilaire and report back to the group.

Bandstand - The bandstand must be completed by August 15, 2017. At this point the majority of the work has been completed. Among the items still remaining are completion of the interior ceiling, completion of painting, installation of an interior light and electricity, completion of the fancy woodwork, construction of a ladder and landscaping.

Charlotte informed the group that the Lions Club has decided to donate four granite benches as their 100th Anniversary project. The town Buildings and Grounds staff will assist the Lions in the installation.

Demolition ordinance, letters to homeowners , publish public awareness – These are on hold due to the large number of projects in progress at this time.

Documentation – Bob is still working on documenting the Grace Daley house. He is working with folks in Attleboro, Ma. (where Grace spent many years as a teacher) to get additional biographical information of Grace.

Another project being planned is developing a video of older houses in Kingston. The project should begin this summer when the streets and yards are more attractive. Bob and Walt Roy are developing a plan. Mr. Korn suggested possibly using existing material like Google Earth. Bob will research this.

Heritage Website – John Chandler has agreed to assist the Commission in developing the web-site. The project will begin when Mr. Chandler's schedule allows.

Other News – The Historical Museum Committee has decided that it is impractical to move the old workshop from the former Saunders property on Main St. to the vicinity of the museum complex. The building will be demolished.

New Business – Election of Officers will take place at the April meeting. The Commission will put out a request on the town web site and cable channel soliciting individuals to serve as alternates.

Next Meeting - will be on April 27, 2017 at the Kingston Community Library, at 7:00 PM. Gail volunteered to take the minutes.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Bob Bean and seconded by Gail Ramsey. Vote was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.