

Town of Kingston Heritage Commission
Public Meeting
August 22, 2019 Minutes

1. Meeting held in the Morse Room of the Kingston Community Library:

Call to order: Chairwoman Debra Powers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance (quorum satisfied):

Members: Debra Powers, Chair - present
Ernie Landry, Vice-Chair - present
Robert Bean – present
Holly Ouellette - present
Susan Prescott, HDC Representative - excused
Gail Ramsey – present
Richard Wilson, BOS Representative - present
Charlotte Boutin, Alternate - present
Jane Christie, Alternate - present
Eileen Clifford, Alternate – present
Adam Faulconer, Alternate – excused
Elaine VanDyke, Alternate – excused

Envision-Kingston-Subcommittee/Quest: Walt Roy

Guest: Leslie Randlett

2. Minutes from the June 27, 2019 Meeting were accepted as read. Motion made by Ernie Landry and seconded by Bob Bean

3. 325th Anniversary Celebration: Wrap-up of events sponsored by HC from July 27 through August 4:

Both performances of Kingston Summer Theater 's presentation of ***Josiah Bartlett, an Extraordinary Man*** were well attended (a crowd of 75 on Saturday, July 27 and over 100 on Sunday, August 04). Congratulations to Carol Misenheimer, the Drama Director and Playwright, and to all of the performers, including HC members Charlotte Boutin and Holly Ouellette. In conjunction with the play, Carol Misenheimer and Tara Misenheimer Lewis created "*Josiah Bartlett A Colorful Life – A Coloring Book For All Ages*" (Text by Carol and Drawings by Tara)

Many thanks to the town crew for cleaning out the Town Hall stage; many thanks to HC members and Envision Kingston II members for all the work done in preparation of and during the performances

The Heritage Commission also had an information table on The Plains on Saturday, July 27. Bob Bean, Ernie Landry, and Debbie Powers "manned" the booth

In conjunction with the NH Executive Council meeting held in Kingston during the 325 Celebration, Governor Christopher T. Sununu issued several proclamations - including one to HC member Holly Ouellette for her outstanding years of service to the Town of Kingston both as an employee and as a volunteer on a variety of committees/commissions/projects

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4. **NH Humanities Grant:** we agreed to apply to get a grant (our second for this calendar year) to have the program on “Poor Houses and Town Farms: The Hard Row for Paupers”. This program ties into the present day with regard to taking care of indigent people. Debbie Powers will take the lead; we will contact the speaker first to see about his availability. FYI: Kingston had a Town Farm on Little River Rd

The above grant would provide the \$200 to be paid the speaker for the presentation; HC would reimburse the speaker for his/her mileage

5. **Operating Budget / CIP (Capital Improvement Program) / Warrant Articles:**

- Operating Budget: we reviewed the WIP HC proposed budget for 2020, along with the proposed /actual budgets for 2018 and 2019. We discussed and agreed to several changes. Debby Powers is lead

Richard Wilson encouraged us to submit our expenses against the budget (many HC expenses become donations vs. being reflected in the operating budget)

- CIP: the HC is responsible for CIP items regarding the Nichols Historical Museum building /complex. Tasks in the CIP include building assessment, masonry work, etc. A chart showing proposed expenditures for 2019 – 2024 was reviewed. Changes were discussed and agreed upon. Ernie Landry is lead
- Warrant Article to add funds to the Heritage Fund: In both 2018 and 2019, HC wrote a warrant article and obtained the necessary amount of signatures to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for the previously (2013) established Heritage Fund. In both years, the warrant article passed. We plan on a similar warrant article for 2020. Richard Wilson volunteered to check into how many years one would need to do a warrant article before having the amount be part of the budget

- 6A. **HC Town Signs Project.** We continue to look forward to seeing the new “Welcome to Kingston, NH” road side signs on the roadways in/out of Kingston
- 6B. **Restored Bandstand on the Plains:** maintenance/repair issues have been identified: crack in a pillar and oxidizing paint
- 7A. **Documentation on Hanson Home:** Bob Bean and Walt Roy were allowed in. They saw nothing of significance to save at that time
- 7B. **Town History Updates:** 70% of the updates have been written and 50% have had pictures selected. There is a business plan for the design of the cover and back page of the forthcoming History Book. There are also expenses. Ernie Landry made a motion and Gail Ramsey 2nd to allow up to \$300 of the 2019 HC budget to be spent on Town History Book Expenses. Motion approved
- 7C. **Town Brochure:** Gail Ramsey will set up a work group meeting. Attendees to include: Gail Ramsey, Holly Ouellette, Charlotte Boutin, Debby Powers, and Eileen Clifford

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8. **Fundraiser:** A number of members commented on the fun they had with the past fundraiser of raffling off 5 chances to win \$100. We raised \$500 for the Heritage Fund

Debby Powers has a contact who does Fund Raising; Debby will pursue for our next fund raising project

9. **New Business:**

10. **BOS / Other Town Organizations:**

- Bill Seaman is retiring as Chief of the Kingston Fire Department
- On November 6, at 6:30 the Kingston Community Library, J. Dennis Robinson (Seacoast historian and author) is presenting a program on the 1873 Smuttynose Murders (Smuttynose being one of the Isles of Shoals)

11. **Next Meeting** / Calendar/ Recorder-of-Next-Minutes: next HC meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 26 at the Kingston Community Library at 7:00 p.m.; Gail Ramsey volunteered to record the minutes

12. **Meeting Adjourned:** at 9:10p.m. - motion made by Bob Bean and seconded by Gail Ramsey

Minutes Prepared by: Eileen Clifford