

**Town of Kingston, NH Heritage Commission**  
**Public Meeting**  
**October 22, 2020**

**Call to Order:** Chairman Ernie Landry called the meeting to order at 7:09. Identification of members present was made through roll call.

Members present:

Bob Bean	Debra Powers
Ernie Landry	Holly Ouellette
Eileen Clifford	Richard Wilson, (BOS Ex Officio)
Charlotte Boutin (Alternate)	Jane Christie (Alternate, Arrived 7:15)

Members absent: Virginia Morse (HDC Ex Officio), Adam Faulconer (Alternate)

Also Present: Walter Roy

**August meeting minutes:** Motion to accept made by Ms. Powers and seconded by Ms. Clifford. Roll call vote to accept minutes as submitted:

Mr. Bean - Yes	Ms. Powers - Yes
Mr. Landry - Yes	Ms. Ouellette - Yes
Ms. Clifford - Yes	Mr. Wilson, (BOS Ex Officio) – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes going forward: No objections to the chairman's proposal as to how best to do minutes going forward.

**Updates:**

Welcome Signs: All but one of the signs is in. We're waiting on approval of one site on Exeter Rd. for the last sign. There was a photo and article in the Carriage Town News regarding the project. It is unclear who put it in.

Plains Cemetery National Register Application Status: The project is progressing as scheduled. We will need to provide a status report to the NH Division of Historical Resources (NHDHR) at the end of the month so we will be requesting an update from the Preservation Company.

Grace Daley Barn Assessment Grant Application Status: The Chairman mentioned that we received verbal notification of approval. The next step is to match us with a Barn Assessment Consultant and sign a proposed grant agreement. The Selectmen approved our Capital Improvement Plan input on Grace Daley Barn. The plan call for the work to be done in 2022 with \$25,000 budgeted. The work will be done by Buildings and Grounds staff and by the contractor where Town doesn't have the capability. The Chairman will send a copy of the Barn Assessment Grant Application to the members.

Facebook: There doesn't appear to be a link on the Heritage Commission web page to the Heritage Commission Facebook page. People are still having difficulty trying to access the page. We will follow-up with Mr. Faulconer to try to get this corrected.

**Joint HC/HDC Meeting Reschedule:**

HDC members would like the meeting to occur on one of their regular meeting days. They meet on the Second Tuesday of the month. Because they have a very busy schedule for Nov. and Dec., the HDC would like the meeting to be on either January 12<sup>th</sup> or February 9<sup>th</sup>. Our Committee agreed to a joint meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Powers and Mr. Bean agreed to work on an agenda for the meeting. Mr. Landry will contact Ms. Prescott (HDC Chairperson) to see who from the HDC will participate with Ms. Powers and Mr. Bean in a meeting to prepare an agenda.

**Documentation:** Mr. Bean provided an update on the Kingston History Book. The project is nearing completion with several chapters in the final design stage and the remainder in the final approval stage before going to final design. The book will be approximately 750 pages in length and purchase price will be \$50. The History Book Committee will be taking pre-orders in the near future with payment due at that time. Books will be sold at Town Hall and the Kingston Community Library and through other indirect means. There will be one printing of the book with either 500 or 750 copies.

**Fundraising:** The group discussed the stained glass window project. There was agreement that we should work with both the HDC and the Museum Committee on this project. Ms. Powers volunteered to be part of the group to lead this project after the beginning of the year.

The group also discussed other fundraising possibilities such as another 50/50 raffle, a raffle of historic items as part of the Heritage Commission booth at Kingston Days (it was mentioned that Kingston Days may be on-hold), etc. It was stressed that we need to be flexible with our plans until we know specifically how the Covid situation will affect

us. Ms. Ouellette, Ms. Clifford, Ms. Powers and Mr. Landry volunteered to work on the fundraising effort.

**Outreach/Publicity:** The group discussed the need for public outreach and publicity including use of the media. As was mentioned earlier, someone has placed an article in the Carriage Towne News regarding the “Welcome to Kingston” signs. Mr. Landry volunteered to write an article regarding the rehabilitation of the stonework and masonry on the Nichols Memorial Library. Other possibilities for articles could include the Plains Cemetery Grant and the Grace Daley Barn Assessment Grant as well as a possible teaser for the history Book. Mr. Landry asked the group to consider volunteering to prepare an item. Ms. Powers and Mr. Bean volunteered to produce some publicity items beginning in February. Mr. Bean suggested developing a calendar outlining a sequence of items to be produced and when. Ms. Clifford suggested that it might be useful to do a write up of Heritage Commission accomplishments for future use in publicizing past Commission activities on Facebook or other media or to inform new members of past accomplishments.

**New Business:**

Warrant Articles – The group discussed whether to put in a warrant article to raise and appropriate monies to be added to the Heritage Fund this year. The members all felt that this is a difficult year financially for many folks due to the Covid situation. Also, Selectmen have asked that department heads limit their increases this year to no more than 2% if possible.

A motion was made by Ms. Powers and seconded by Ms. Clifford to **not** put in a warrant article this year based on the above. Roll call vote to approve the motion:

Mr. Bean - Yes

Ms. Powers - Yes

Mr. Landry - Yes

Ms. Ouellette - Yes

Ms. Clifford - Yes

Mr. Wilson, (BOS Ex Officio) – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

Certified Local Government (CLG) Grants – Letters of Intent are due to NH Division of Historical Resources by Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. Based on the fact that we are currently working on a CLG grant project, and the current level of work projected this coming year the group decided that it will not apply for a CLG Grant for 2021.

Budget – We have only used \$29 this year according to the recent budget report. This is in part because members use many of their own resources when completing projects

(plain and photo paper, ink, binders, etc.) or things are done through donations. This then, doesn't provide an accurate picture of the actual resources being used by the Commission. The group agreed that, in the future, we will use the resources of the town rather than personal resources when appropriate and will seek reimbursement for expenditures when using our personal funds for commission work. Also, due to Covid concerns, we canceled an event for the public and curtailed activities for which we would have used monies from the budget.

**Announcements of Events:**

It was agreed that Mr. Landry will send announcements of training and events sponsored by the various historic preservation related organizations (NH Preservation Alliance, NH Division of Historic Resources, NH Humanities, etc.) to the members as a means of continuing to develop our knowledge and skill in historic preservation.

**Board of Selectmen/Other town organization updates:**

Ms. Boutin informed the group that the Church on the Plains will begin work on its Paver Walkway on Monday.

Ms. Powers showed the group a letter she received from the Board of Selectmen thanking and commending her for her accomplishments during her tenure as Chairperson of the Heritage commission. She stated her feeling that this recognition is acknowledgement of the hard work and dedication of the Commission members as well. The members congratulated Ms. Powers on this truly deserved recognition and thanked her for her leadership.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 7:00 PM by Zoom.

**Adjournment:** Having no other business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:24 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 meeting in which the amendments were made.