

Town of Kingston, NH Heritage Commission

Public Meeting

September 24, 2020

- 1. Call to Order:** Chairman Ernie Landry called the meeting to order at 7:06. Identification of members present was made through roll call. It was noted that all votes on motions during this meeting would be made as roll call votes.

Members present:

Bob Bean	Debra Powers
Virginia Morse (HDC Ex Officio)	Ernie Landry
Eileen Clifford (Arrived 7:15 pm)	Richard Wilson, (BOS Ex Officio)
Adam Faulconer (Alternate)	

Members absent: Holly Ouellette, Charlotte Boutin, Jane Christie

Also Present: Walter Roy

Alternates Voting for Absent Members: Adam Faulconer will be voting in place of Holly Ouellette

Welcome: The group welcomed Virginia Morse to the commission

- 2. August meeting minutes:** Motion to accept made by Debby Powers and seconded by Bob Bean. Roll call vote:

Debra Powers – Yes	Bob Bean – Yes	Virginia Morse - Abstain
Richard Wilson - Abstain	Ernie Landry - Yes	Adam Faulconer – Yes
- 3. Plains Cemetery National Register Application Process:** Debby Powers has been in contact with the consultant and the project is progressing as scheduled
- 4. Grace Daley Barn Assessment Grant Application Status:** Chairman Landry reported that we expect to receive a decision on our grant application from the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance by the end of the September
- 5. Town Signs/Bandstand:**
 - Welcome to Kingston Road Signs: Chairman Landry reported that he expected the signs to be installed soon. Later in the meeting (Item 12. Outreach), we discussed looking into making a photo opportunity of a newly installed sign sign (not only is the Highway Department installing the sign, the Highway Department was also one of our partners in creating the signs)

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Public Meeting

September 24, 2020

- Bandstand: Chairman Landry reported that the Bandstand had recently been repainted and that there will likely be intensive maintenance on the bandstand next year, particularly to the posts.

Background: Not only do we want to keep the Bandstand in top condition, the Town agreed to a 5 year preservation easement which requires us to maintain the Bandstand in the same shape it was in when the restoration was completed. The agreement is with LCHIP (Land and Community Heritage Investment Program) which provided the matching grant to restore the Bandstand. The preservation easement runs thru late 2022.

6. Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Items: The chairman went over the proposed 2021 – 2026 proposals:

The masonry work on the Nichols Building has been completed so the entries for this project in 2020 and 2021 can be deleted. FYI: The Town is to re-install the hand railings.

The scope of the Historic Building Assessment in 2021 has been reduced since the Heritage commission is not looking at doing an assessment for the entire museum complex. The estimated cost has been reduced to \$5000.

The project to "Replace storm and regular glass windows" should be changed to "Repair storm and double hung windows". The original, and current, intent of the project was to retain and repair the windows so the wording in our initial submission was in error.

The project to "Repair stained glass windows" retains the same dates (spread out over 3 years). We propose adding the cost (\$22,000) to the grants/ reimbursements column because we hope to arrange the funding through donations from local citizens (perhaps in memory of or in honor of someone), civic groups, businesses, etc.

A new project is proposed - "Repair/restore Grace Daley Barn". We are hoping to receive a grant from the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance for a barn assessment. We are not sure what the assessment report would recommend for repairs so we're recommending a place holder of \$25,000 for the CIP. We know there's substantial work to be done – foundation, sills, siding, joinery separating, etc. Selectmen would likely want us to go to Warrant on this and we probably won't have the barn assessment results in time for town meeting. The CIP money would be for things that requires competence or equipment beyond the capabilities of the town.

A motion to approve the CIP proposal was made by Ms. Powers and seconded by Mr. Bean. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

Town of Kingston, NH Heritage Commission

Public Meeting

September 24, 2020

7. HC/HDC Meeting Reschedule: The HDC meets the second Tuesday of months when there is an HDC application to discuss; the HC normally meets the fourth Thursday of the month. Ms. Morse noted that a joint meeting need *not* be on the night of a regularly scheduled meeting of either group. Chairman Landry will check with Susan Prescott, HDC Chair, to determine a possible date. An agenda will be prepared – possible items include discussions of current projects of each group, the Sanborn Seminary, continuing work on Envision Kingston II, etc.

8. Documentation: Mr. Bean updated the group on progress on the Town history book. The majority of work on writing and initial editing should be completed in the next month. The current target for publication is January or February.

Mr. Bean also mentioned that he and Mr. Roy are still hoping to document the Sanborn Seminary before it changes hands. It was suggested that he contact the School District to try to obtain a copy of any videos they may have of the building.

Ms. Morse indicated that she has a binder of photos of houses in Historic District 1 which were taken by Randy Kezar a number of years ago and she would be glad to lend the binder to the documentation team for review and to copy as part of the documentation project.

9. Brochure/Facebook:

- Further work on the brochure continues to be on hold until Bob Bean can join the group.
- Ms. Powers mentioned that folks have had some difficulty locating the Facebook page. Mr. Faulconer indicated that he is redoing the page, including posting it on the Heritage Commission web page. Visitors to the HC Facebook page will not be able to post comments/messages. The group agreed that we need to frequently update /refresh the data on our FB page and we agreed to include the HC meeting agenda (which is also on the HC web page). Mr. Faulconer and Ms. Powers will be the HC FB Administrators; Chairman Landry to have final say

Note: Mr. Faulconer excused himself and left the meeting at 8:03 PM.

10. Fund Raising: The group discussed last month's decision to pursue the idea of raising funds for the restoration of the stained glass windows at the Nichols building through donations. We need someone to volunteer to work on/lead this effort.

Town of Kingston, NH Heritage Commission

Public Meeting

September 24, 2020

11. Commission member training Opportunities: The Chairman mentioned the NH Preservation Alliance still has a few more virtual training sessions coming up if anyone is interested. Any training we attend can be reported in our annual report to CLG and helps to reinforce our standing as a CLG. If anyone is interested in training (with the NH Preservation Alliance or otherwise) , we have money in the budget for that purpose.

12. Outreach/publicity: The group agreed that we need to have greater effort in this area. This could possibly include things like an article on receiving the CLG grant, restoration of the Nichols building, etc. This type of outreach supports the HC goals.

The group also discussed the notion of a more integrated approach to outreach and publicity in town geared toward preservation and utilization of our historic resources overall. Something that would help to establish a broader mindset of the value of what the town is doing overall in historic preservation.

Ms. Morse mentioned the “Kingston Chronicles” as an example of outreach used by the HDC in the past.

Members of the group were encouraged to think about how to contribute to an Outreach endeavor. Run ideas by Chariman Landry to ensure efforts are not duplicated, etc

13. New Business: The Chairman mentioned that Letters of Intent for the 2021 Certified Local Government Grant Program are due by November 15th, with formal applications due in Mid-January.

14. BOS/Other Town Organization Updates: Mr. Wilson mentioned that the Governor has issued new guidance regarding group meetings and that this may make it easier for groups to meet in person. The members indicated their desire to continue meeting using the Zoom platform. It was noted that Zoom meetings can allow participants to attend via a phone call (vs using a device with internet connection)

15. Next meeting: Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 7:00 PM by Zoom.

16. Adjournment: Having no other business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:50 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.