

**Town of Kingston Heritage Commission
Public Meeting
October 25, 2018 Draft Minutes**

1. **Call to order:** Chairwoman Debra Powers called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m. in the Morse Room at the Kingston Community Library

Attendance (quorum satisfied)

Members: Debra Powers, Chair - present
Ernie Landry, Vice-Chair – present
Robert Bean – excused
Charlotte Boutin, Alternate - present
Jane Christie, Alternate - present
Eileen Clifford, Alternate - present
George Korn, Representative from BOS - excused
Holly Ouellette – present
Susan Prescott, Representative from HDC - **absent** as she noted on 9/27
Gail Ramsey - present
Jennifer Ramsey-Feoli, Alternate - absent
Elaine VanDyke, Alternate – present

Guests: Walter Roy
Carol Misenheimer
Lesley-Ann Hume

Minutes Prepared by: Eileen Clifford

2. **Minutes from Previous Meetings:** Draft minutes from the September 27, 2018 meeting were accepted as amended. Motion made by Ernie and seconded by Holly
3. **Town of Kingston's 325th Anniversary:**
 - Lesley-Ann Hume, President of the Friends of the Kingston Historical Museum Association, Inc, gave us some highlights:
 - Lesley is the contact person to the 325th Anniversary Committee for the following groups: Town of Kingston Heritage Commission, Town of Kingston Historic District Commission, Town of Kingston Historical Museum Committee, and the Friends of the Kingston Historical Museum Association, Inc.
 - there will be events *throughout 2019* to commemorate our Town's 325th Anniversary. For example: on Saturday June 29th, the "Museum" sponsored baseball game played by the Essex Base Ball Organization (Chase Field) and also events sponsored by the Kingston Volunteer Fire Association

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3. Town of Kingston's 325th Anniversary:

- Highlights by Lesley-Ann Hume continued:
 - **Traditional "Kingston Days" events for 2019:** Friday, July 26, 2019 through Sunday, July 28
 - **"325th Anniversary Celebration" Dates:** starting after Kingston Days and ending Sunday, August 4. Events include: Parade, Naturalization Ceremony, Colonial Reenactment/Campout and Colonial Craft Faire with demonstrations
 - On June 08, the Kingston Historical Museum Committee will kick-off its 2019 season of the Museum Complex being open the second Saturday of the month June through October (1:00 p.m. thru 4 p.m.). There are additional events being planned for June 8th (such as 4-H Demonstrations on The Plains)

In conjunction with the Museum events on June 08, the HC has scheduled the presentation *NH Cemeteries and Gravestones* by the NH Humanities Programs. This HC sponsored talk is to take place in the Plains Cemetery and is to be followed with a reception (i.e. snacks and conversation) at the Town Hall

- The HC is sponsoring a theatre performance (with music) on Josiah Bartlett with Carol Misenheimer, Drama Director and Playwright. Carol gave us a brief summary of "*Josiah Bartlett: An Extraordinary Man*" which will consist of snapshots in our town hero's life

Discussion included venues, need for period costumes, personnel (Carol welcomes people of all ages from the community in addition to students from local schools), and possible dates for two performances. Lesley Hume will look into the availability of the Town Hall for Saturday, July 27 (during Kingston Days) and Sunday, August 4 (during the 325th Anniversary Celebration). In anticipation, the HC plans to check on the state of the Town Hall stage

Tara Misenheimer, Visual Artist and Illustrator, is developing a coloring book on Josiah Bartlett. Carol and Tara are planning to apply for a historical and artistic grant specific to New Hampshire with a focus on education

- 4. Nichols Memorial Library Building maintenance:** responses to the request for proposals for exterior masonry work are in. As not all the bids subdivided the tasks, bidders are being asked to give estimates to repair only the wing walls (re: the walls on the sides of the front stairs); we will ask for estimates on the rest of the exterior masonry work at a later time

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4. Nichols Memorial Library Building maintenance continued:

Discussion items included: Asking about forms to protect stairs from damage by snow plows and noting that there is no exterior lighting in front of the building

Open item: pursue a preservation assessment grant through the NH Preservation Alliance

On behalf of the Kingston Historical Museum, Lesley Hume attended the NH Preservation Alliance's October 20th Practical Workshop on *Wet Basements* held at the Strawberry Banke Museum in Portsmouth. Lesley shared the following:

“The experts recommended (1) regrade so that the grade is a least 6 inches below cellar window sills, (2) excavating 24 inches below the proper grade to remove and re-point stone foundation, (3) remove and re-point the interior stone foundation wall, (4) place perimeter drainage inside the basement and replace the flooring with better materials (many times biodegradable materials were used as fill – creates problems) and pour new flooring, (5) use mortar as close to original, and finally (6) install dehumidifying system in the basement.”

5. Sanborn Seminary Negotiations continue. The incomplete proposal has been announced. The HC chairman will meet with the Kingston BOS for additional information.

The possibility of the HC holding a public meeting was introduced

Gail will research contact information for Sanborn Seminary alumni

Eileen continues to gather/refine information on cost estimates of possible “mailings”

Debby scheduled a work group for 6:30 Wednesday, 11/14 at the Kingston Community Library to start to draft the material which we want to use to address taxpayers

6. Fund Raiser: On 10/01, The Board of Selectmen gave their approval for the HC to have a cash raffle fundraiser

7. Brand / Slogan: we reviewed a variety of caricatures (provided by Holly) to peak interest and draw visitors into exploring more of Kingston

Debby asked that we come up with slogans about Kingston's historical and/or cultural aspects, activities to be enjoyed here, benefits of living here, etc.

Additional thoughts for consideration include: review the Envision Kingston II report as a roadmap and inspiration for promoting change using our historic assets and inspiration for branding Kingston; look at Town symbols (such as the weather vane on the Town Hall) that we may choose to incorporate

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8. **Welcome to Kingston Roadway Signs:** The inserts have been dropped off at the High School to be incorporated into the frames! Ernie and Kingston Road Agent Rich St. Hilaire started the review of the possible sites at which to install the signs. Since there are State of NH regulations as to the placement signs on the side of NH State highways, Ernie re-contacted the appropriate agency for clarification with regard to distance between sign and center of the road

Rich is devising a way to enhance the process of determining how a sign would appear at the different sites (which will help in picking the best location)

9. **Other Town Organizations:**

Board of Selectmen (BOS): no report given

Historic District Commission: no report given

Historical Museum Committee: while no report given as such, see above Item # 3: Town of Kingston's 325th Anniversary for some upcoming activities

10. **Other Events / Activities:**

- On Tuesday, November 13, 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM, Andrew Cushing of the NH Preservation Alliance is giving a talk "Researching Your Old House" at the Wiggan Memorial Library, 10 Bunker Hill Ave, Stratham, NH
- While turnout at the Volunteer Event sponsored by Friends of the Kingston Library in October was low, the HC handout and corresponding poster which we created for the Volunteer Event turned out well and can be used at other events

11. **Next Meeting and Adjournment**

- **Next Meeting:** Thursday, December 13th; Eileen volunteered to take minutes
- **Meeting Adjourned** at 8:59. Motion made by Gail and seconded by Elaine (who was voting etc. in place of Bob Bean)