

KINGSTON HERITAGE COMMISSION

Meeting Notes from the meeting held:
December 11, 2014
at the Library

Meeting announcement was posted: at the Town Hall; and the Website.

Ernie Landry called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

Members in Attendance: Ernie Landry; Bob Bean; Gail Ramsey; Holly Ouellette, George Korn Alternates: Gary Finerty, Jane Christie

Previous Minutes: from the meeting held 10/23/2014 were approved as amended by Jane Christie to correct various spelling issues. Motion made by Bob and seconded by Holly. It was passed by a unanimous voice vote with one abstention.

Old Business:

Grace Daley House: Ernie stated that they met with the BOS regarding Lindsay McDougall's fund raising. The town can accept the donations. We will be able to give donors a memo explaining its' tax deductible status. If the money cannot be used for Grace Daley, it will then go to Heritage for general use. A discussion ensued regarding how the fund has been advertised. It can be found at <http://www.gofundme.com/SaveTheGraceDaleyHouse> . It was stated that the fund raising could be advertised on the town web site and the town community channel. Cathy Grant would be the contact for that.

Bartlett House: NH Preservation Alliance has asked for money for a Preservation Easement in the amount of \$46,000. They were actually granted \$22,000. They now need to make up the difference, and will be looking for funding. Ernie will investigate further to see if we need a warrant article for town meeting next spring. A question was asked about how aware the rest of the state government is about this issue. Could we get someone to put a bill in Concord to raise this amount? Who is trying to motivate them? Who is leading the charge? We should speak to people we know in Concord to ask them to consider helping. People like Maggie Hassan, Ken Wyler, Chuck Morse, or Russ Prescott might be able to help. George agreed to contact Russ Prescott about this. Jane suggested she could call the governor.

Ernie explained that Debbie is trying to get a private donor to help. She has assembled a package of pictures and background to explain the issue. There is a

“Quiet Title” petition in the legal notices in the Carriage Towne News about the property.

Sanborn Seminary Building: We are waiting for the School Board to give their support of a Charrette for the town plans that will include the use of the Seminary. The town of Newton also needs to be involved as a stakeholder in the building. Ernie explained how the Charrette will be conducted.

Bandstand: Ernie gave us a status of the efforts to date, including describing the mover’s techniques to adjust the position by inches to make it overlay the foundation.

A discussion of the options that need decisions came up with the following recommendations:

- The group discussed moving the orientation of the access door from its current side to the side facing the length of the Plains. It seemed to be better aesthetically, and there is also some pictorial evidence it may have been that way in its earliest days. The group agreed changing the access point was reasonable.
- The stairs should be permanently attached, and may be flaired if Bob thinks it appropriate.
- There should be a closable door at the top of the stairs.
- The Bandstand should be generally open to the public for casual use during daylight hours. There should be some regulations that control use from Dusk to Dawn.
- A minimal fee (less than \$25) for usage should be charged for out of town users for special events. Town residents should be able to use the Bandstand for free.
- We should require proof of insurance for non town groups.
- The ladder should be permanently attached and be brought to code to assure safe use.
- The Bandstand should be closed from Dusk to Dawn except for permitted special events.
- Lighting could consist of two types, low level soffit lighting to allow police visibility to the interior of the Bandstand during the Dark to deter vandalism, and higher levels of spotlight base lighting for accent, that could be used for selected periods. (like dusk to 10PM, or during an event?) Bob Pothier should be consulted to determine the best way to make these things happen.

- Don Briggs should be consulted as to how best to make the dusk to dawn restriction enforceable. (Will lighting help?)
- Check with Bob Pothier about load limits on the band stand. (How many people can it hold?)

At Risk Property: Bob explained that the Cheney Mill DVD is complete. Hanson and Phillips properties need to be set up. Ernie has been doing some property record research on the Phillips property. Walt is planning on asking Ruth to do a full tour of the Bartlett house for recording on DVD.

HC Action Plans: The January meeting will be dedicated to developing HC action plans. Bob explained that the meeting will first ask “What are the things we **Could** do as a Heritage Commission?”, then we will ask “What are the important criteria we should use to choose our projects and develop priorities?”; and lastly to apply our criteria to the total list to prioritize our options and choose our best actions. The meeting is expected to take the entire evening, and may need a follow up meeting to complete. The intent is to give the entire group a sense of what priorities we will be working on and why we choose them.

New Business:

Ernie explained that the Hopkinton Historical Society in conjunction with the NH Humanities Council is offering a workshop meeting on Building Community through Oral History. January 10th from 9-5PM. Jane explained that it is being run by Jo Radner, and Leslie is coordinating arranging attendees from Kingston. Bob explained that there are currently five people signed up, Walt Roy, Bob Bean, Leslie Hume, Lindsay McDougall, and Stacy Smoyer. Jane stated that she wanted to go as well. Ernie asked if HDC knew about this event. Jane agreed to contact Virginia Morse.

Jane asked what the BOS was considering about the Nichols. George stated that there have been some discussions, but no decisions have been made. They are considering all the options for the town, including dissolving the Nichols trust. There is some concern that the town does not need, and did not intend to fund, two libraries. Complicating these issues is the appearance that the management of the Museum seems to be coming from the Library. There was some discussion about the museum’s current collection of artifacts, archives and historical books and how we use them. There was further discussion about the name and structure of the organization that is currently managing the Museum.

In general there was agreement that the group has been doing much great work, it is just confusing about structure and goals.

Next meeting will be on January 22, 2014 at 7: 00 PM at the Library.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ernie and seconded by George. It was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

This month's minutes were taken by Bob Bean.