

## **KINGSTON HERITAGE COMMISSION**

Meeting Notes from the meeting held:

Oct 22, 2015

At the Library

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

Ernie Landry called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M.

**Members in Attendance:** Deb Powers, Ernie Landry; Bob Bean; Gail Ramsey, Jennifer Feoli, Holly Ouellette, Charlotte Boutin (HDC) Alternates: Jane Christie, Ellen Faulconer.

**Guests in Attendance:** Marghi, Bean, Conservation; Walt Roy, Library / Museum; Glenn Coppelman, HDC/Planning Board; Lynn Gainty, KDC / Budget; Ruth Albert, Museum; Lesley & Faith Hume, Museum; Stanley Shalett, HDC; Jef Flanders-McDougal, KCL Trustee, Museum; Stacey Smoyer, HDC/Museum

**Previous Minutes:** Minutes from July 2015 were discussed. A motion was made by Bob Bean, and seconded by Holly Ouellette to accept as written, it was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Heritage Commission (HC) Regular Meeting Discussion:**

Jane was selected to vote as a regular member in Deb's absence.

**Nichols Library Building Update-** An updated MOU has been drafted to turn the responsibility for the Nichols building over to the town, and subsequently to the HC. It has not as yet been approved or signed. A meeting will be held on Monday 10/26 to discuss.

Jeff asked if the HC had taken a vote to assume responsibility for the Nichols building. After some discussion, it was concluded that there was a voice consensus, but no vote occurred, since an approved MOU did not exist at that time.

Ellen gave a brief description of the MOU's current contents. A discussion of the HC's role in managing the Nichols building occurred.

Deb arrived about 7:20, and assumed leadership of the meeting.

Lesley discussed the building's basement problems, and other issues. It was discussed that these comments are premature, pending what happens with the MOU, and the meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Town Heritage Brochure-** Jennifer passed out a draft of a town Heritage brochure. The brochure would be an index of the town's Heritage and Historic offerings. It utilized pictures, descriptions and QR codes for internet addresses. It is intended to be used by posting it at brochure sites across the state, at the Town Hall for interested residents, as well as to be distributed in the schools.

A request was made for all other groups to join our working group and help us determine content and approach. We need input to expand all the possible things that could be put in the brochure, and then help to down-select the most important ones for the brochure.

Glenn suggested we contact Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) for possible financial assistance (JPP grants), and help distributing it. Jeff suggested we post dates and times each facility was open. Lynn suggested that the top of the brochure be a specific call to action and also suggested we look at, (and possibly link to) the Kingston Days and Kingston Residents Face Book pages. Charlotte discussed the Walking Tour presentation being created by the HDC. Marghi suggested there should be links to the town trails and Kayaking areas.

**Bandstand Update** – Ernie gave us the status that the work on the Bandstand continues, at a slow pace, and that we will need to apply for an extension for our grant funding. Most major wood work should be done by snowfall, but final painting and completion will not be done till next spring. Plans for a Grand Opening will be put on hold until we can see the end of construction in sight.

**Grace Daley Update-** Ellen gave us the status that the organization (Isaiah 58?) is interested in using the Grace Daley Building as a 'Half-Way' house. They have sent building experts to meet with us, and we are currently awaiting their response and proposal for use. There are many issues and questions to be resolved by the Selectmen prior to any final decision. In the meantime, Walt explained that the small building connecting the smaller house to the barn is being repaired as a site for a Museum display. Current efforts are to repair the sill on one corner of the building. That sill was below grade, and completely rotted away. During that effort an old well was found underneath the building. Next efforts will be to repair the roof. Ellen and Deb asked if the Museum group had signed the waivers for volunteers. The Museum group was not aware these forms existed, and Ellen and Deb agreed to send them out.

**Documentation Update-** Bob gave us a status of the current efforts of the “Lost & at Risk” properties. The final Cheney Mill site book has been completed and distributed to both the Library and the Museum. Bob explained that there is current interest by Danville, and the group agreed that the HC should donate a copy to them. There was a discussion about how this digital content is saved.

It was also discussed that there are many other properties in town at risk (The Phillips house, and the Hanson house), and also some properties that we have lost. (The Hayes house) Jeff explained that we have lost properties in the Sanborn Seminary complex.

Ernie gave us a description of a Demolition hold ordinance he is working on. He will distribute for comments, and discuss at our next meeting, to consider it as a Planning Board warrant article for next years voting.

Currently only buildings in the HDC have any notice of demolition. We are proposing to expand the hold regulation to include all properties in town on the Heritage inventory. (> 50 years old) The intent is to understand the conditions for demolition, possibly assist in saving, and as a last resort document the building’s key historical factors prior to demolition.

**Grant Listing Update-** Ernie is working on a listing of potential grant sources.

**Sanborn Seminary-** Deb gave us the status that the Charrette for downtown Kingston, including the Sanborn Seminary, is being applied for. It will hopefully be scheduled for late spring next year. It should help plan for the use of the Sanborn Seminary building, as a part of an overall down town plan.

## **Discussion / Sharing of Projects from Other Organizations within Kingston**

**Historic District Commission-** (HDC) Charlotte gave us the status that the HDC is working on the walking tour. She passed around a working DRAFT of the presentation. Glenn discussed the mailing of Evy Nathan’s video DVD sent to all property owners in the HDC with a letter explaining some of the rules and regulations in the HDC. Lesley asked that a copy of these videos and walking tours (when completed) be given to the Museum for storage.

**Museum Committee** – Ruth Albert discussed the outline memo distributed, and attached to these notes. It included their Mission, Hours of Operation, Resources, Responsibilities, and current Project Categories.

A discussion was had about the accession and de-accession of objects. The Museum is in process of defining those policies. The issue of insurance of artifacts is also an open area for further work.

Jeff reported that there is no active program to maintain the readability of old gravestones in the cemeteries.

**Kingston Days Committee-** Lynn discussed the town history booklet, and is planning to meet with Bob to discuss how we can best work together. Lesley mentioned that all the groups in this meeting could contribute to the town History effort. Jane said that the book should focus on stories. Deb asked that some of us should be invited to the Kingston Days meetings.

**Conservation Commission-** Marghi briefly described the town forest walks and trails, and the efforts with the Boy Scouts, and the Sanborn High students to maintain these trails. Evy Nathan is also working on a pressed flowers program with the Museum group.

There were several comments that multi-group interaction and coordination, like this meeting, is a very good thing to do.

### **Heritage Commission New Business:**

Jane discussed that she has been approached, by Cynthia Swank, to ask if Kingston would be willing to host a Seacoast Heritage Commission Joint meeting. After some discussion, it was concluded that we would like to do this in the future, but probably not next year. But we will discuss it at our next meeting.

Next meeting will be held on December 3, 2015 at 7: 00 PM at the Library. Gail will set this date up with the Library.

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

This month's minutes were taken by Bob Bean.

## Attachment #1 – Museum Committee Hand Out.

October 22, 2015

To: Heritage Commission  
From: Historic Museum Committee  
Subject: Museum Mission, Responsibilities and Projects

Mission: The mission of the Kingston Historical Museum is to increase public knowledge and understanding of the history and cultural heritage of the Town of Kingston, New Hampshire from its earliest inhabitants to the present generation. We will communicate that history through an active museum, educational programs, and a resource library.

Nichols Library Open: Every Wednesday 9am to Noon

Other Museum Buildings Open: One Saturday a Month May thru October

Resources:

- A. Archive Collection
- B. Library Collection
- C. Museum Objects
- D. Buildings:
  - 1. Grace Daley Barn
  - 2. Firehouse
  - 3. Cobbler Shop
  - 4. Tramp House
  - 5. Nichols Memorial Library
- E. Professional Archivist

Responsibilities:

- A. Accept or Decline all Donated Objects and Archival Materials offered to Town of Kingston
- B. Museum Building Operations and Displays
- C. Provide assistance in the research and development of written materials concerning Kingston's history
- D. Educational Programs
- E. Preserve and make available to the Public the Work of the other Committees (examples:
  - a. Historic District Commission Walking Tour Brochure
  - b. Heritage Commission Cheney Mill Video and Book
- F. Develop Volunteer Training Program
  - a. Museum Processes
  - b. Biographical and History Research Standards
  - c. Genealogy Standards

Projects fall within the following categories:

- A. Documenting the Histories of:
  - A. Individuals
  - B. Families
  - C. Businesses
  - D. Industries
  - E. Community Organizations
  - F. Churches
  - G. Government
  - H. Objects
- B. Oral History Project
- C. Genealogy Project
- D. Museum Displays
- E. School Children Activities