

KINGSTON HERITAGE COMMISSION

Meeting Notes from the meeting held:

December 3, 2015

At the Kingston Community 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, Charlotte Boutin (HDC), George Korn, Selectmen's Rep. Alternates: Jane Christie, Jennifer Ramsey-Feoli

Previous Minutes: Minutes from October 22, 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 Regular Meeting Discussion:

Jennifer was selected to vote as a regular member in the absence of Debby Powers.

Demolition Review Ordinance – Ernie indicated that the Planning Board is not interested in bringing the DRO forward to public hearing as a PB article. They did not feel it needed to be an ordinance and some were concerned about the timeframes. We could bring it forward as a citizen's petition if we choose. Without the PB endorsement the chances of it passing at Town meeting are iffy. PB suggested we ask the Selectmen if they would make it a part of the normal building permit process. Ernie spoke with the Selectmen and they agreed in principle with the concept. They too were concerned with timeframes. They agreed that they would identify a block on the building permit asking the applicant to contact HC if it is a building on the 1983 Survey and would have another check box for the building inspector to notify HC immediately. Cathy Grant and Cathy Sanford have the list. A number of folks that Ernie talked to suggested we take a more proactive approach with a letter (then focus on key properties) as well as trying to get a grant to update the survey. There was considerable discussion on this topic with agreement that it would be premature to move forward with a warrant article at this time. A motion was made by Bob and seconded by Gail that we should ask the Selectmen to add the blocks to the demolition application and in the meantime draft an informational/educational letter to owners of subject homes to work with us in the future if documentation is appropriate. Bob will prepare a draft letter to the owners and bring it to the Commission. We will also do further research on the efficacy of having a DRO. The motion was passed unanimously.

Nichols Building Update – George indicate that the MOU has been signed by Mark. The Board of Selectmen will be working with Town Counsel on the legal aspects of having the trust modified. Selectmen have signed a contract for an engineering firm to complete an analysis of the building's needs and prepare a report and plan for needed repairs. Expect to have the report by this coming spring. George is working with Debby to get the Nichols Building repair costs on the CIP. The total could be as much as \$400,000 over a number of years.

Town Heritage Brochure – Jennifer provided an update on the brochure project. A meeting was scheduled but there were insufficient members attending to conduct the meeting. Jennifer mentioned that she felt the scope of the project had become considerably broader as a result of the previous meeting with the various historically related organizations present (Museum Committee, Kingston Days Com., HDC, Conservation Comm.). Ernie indicated that he also felt the scope had enlarged and believed it was now beyond the scope of the Heritage Commission. Jane indicated somewhat similar feelings. Bob indicated his belief that, at this point, the scope may have expanded but that it is up to the brochure committee to reconvene and determine what the actual scope should be. Discussion ensued relative to both points. Jennifer will schedule the next meeting and notify members.

Bandstand Update – Ernie provided an update. We will need a 6 month extension for Bob to complete work on the Bandstand. He indicates that he will complete all but the roof work and the painting by the end of the year and will be able to complete the roof and painting in the six month period. Waiver was sent in today. LCHIP is finalizing work on this year's grant applications so we probably won't hear anything until they complete that work- probably mid-December. The Exec. Director can grant the 6 mo. extension. If we want further time we will have to petition the LCHIP Board of Directors. That's a more involved process. Selectmen and Rich have been getting a lot of questions and complaints about the Bandstand. George suggested we prepare an article for CTN.

Grace Daley Update – Ernie provided an update for Ellen. Ellen has heard from Isaiah 58. They are still very interested. They're pleased about the notion of a private organization working in partnership with a municipality to meet goals that benefit each party. They still have a few questions that will need to be answered by the Selectmen and will be forwarding them to Ellen soon. They are issues around things like defining ownership, maintenance, how to handle septic situation, etc. It will be important to get these questions answered soon since we have to report to Town meeting on our efforts and only have until Jan. 18th to submit any warrant articles to continue the moratorium on demolition or ask for money for any purpose. It's possible that they will not be able to get grant money until 2017 so there may be issues about what to do with the building in the interim if voters give an extension. George indicated that the Selectmen would review the questions as soon as they're received and respond as soon as possible.

Documentation Update – Bob indicate that he has made additional copies of the Cheney Mill book. He will be in contact with Carol Croteau who would like to purchase two copies. He will also provide a copy to the Danville Heritage Commission. Bob has still been unable to contact the owners of the house at 53 Marshall Rd. but will continue to try and we should also resume efforts to try to contact the owners of the former Phillips house on Farm Rd. .

Grant Listing – No change

Sanborn Seminary Charrette- Ernie indicated that Debby prepared the application to Plan NH and the Selectmen sent it in. It was a large package and well prepared by Debby. The Charrette Committee met and reviewed our application and would like to talk with us further. Debby is setting up a meeting with Plan NH and representatives from the Select Board, Planning Board, HDC and HC to occur sometime next month.

Budget – Ernie indicated that Debby worked with Peter Broderick to finalize the HC budget. It has been presented to the Budget Committee. Ernie read the budget to the group. George suggested that the budget should include some money for consultants similar to the consultants who will be analyzing the needs for the Nichols building.

Savers Fund Raiser Plaistow– Ernie provided information from Ellen. This is a donation drive fundraiser. Savers (thrift shop) approached Ellen for Social Services but she doesn't have staff enough to conduct the effort. Ellen thought about HC. Savers allows non-profits to promote donations over a weekend and to derive money from the items donated. The non-profit publicizes and encourages folks to donate for free. A non-profit rep. must be present on the event days. We could publicize in CTN and at Deliberative session, on Town web site, flyers, etc. Savers proposed the weekend of Feb.27th to 29th. They have saved that date for Kingston. Discussion centered around the fact that this would require quite a bit of planning and effort without any idea of the return we would get in terms of dollars. Also, we need to look at a broad fund raising strategy before we begin taking on individual projects. Decision was to decline the offer.

Seacoast Fall meeting Update – Jane indicated that the North Hampton Heritage Commission will be hosting the next Seacoast meeting in the fall. They plan to have Steve Bedard of Bedard Preservation and Restoration as a guest speaker. His company did the study of the Nichols building several years ago.

Next meeting: will be on January 28th at the Kingston Community Library. Holly Ouellette agreed to take minutes at the meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Bob bean and seconded by Gail Ramsey. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Ernie Landry.