**Members Present:**

Ernie Landry, Chair

Bob Bean, Vice-Chair

Virgina Morse, HDC representative

Glenn Coppelman, BOS, ex officio

Eileen Clifford

**Members Not Present:**

Charlotte Boutin

Holly Quellette

**Also Present:**

Walt Roy

Gloria LeClair

**Excused:** Marissa Federico, Recording Secretary

# Call to Order: Mr. Landry called the meeting order at 6:31 p.m. In honor of National Volunteer Week (April 16-22, 2023), Mr. Landry thanked the HC members and helpers for time/effort

# Acceptance of Minutes: Mr. Bean made the motion to accept the minutes of the March 23, 2023; Ms. Morse seconded. Minutes were approved as submitted - with 1 person abstaining as he was not present at the March meeting; all other voters were in favor. A brief discussion followed on the change in level of detail in HC minutes over the last five or so years. The consensus was that the current level of detail is extremely helpful to the readers

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# Updates: *Stained Glass Window (SGW) Project*: The restoration is on schedule; the windows are expected to be back in the Nichols building by mid May. The windows are town owned; the Town fronted the funds for the restoration of one window (Window # 10). We are excited and grateful that there are sponsors who are covering the pre-determine restoration cost associated with the other Stained Glass Windows. We continue to seek donations to help cover several related costs, including approximately $2,496 which was knowingly built in to simply the sponsorship process. The SGW subcommittee’s plans include: 1) placing a plaque under each window with recognition-of or dedication-chosen by the window’s sponsor; 2) mounting a sponsor-donor inclusive plaque in the Nichols building with the names of both the sponsors (those who sponsored the cost of the restoration of “an entire widow”) and the donors (those who made donations of any amount to the project as a whole); and 3) presenting framed “certificates of appreciation” to the sponsor of each window. Mr. Roy is doing a beautiful job of creating and individualizing these certificates. The goal continues to be to have the plaques mounted prior to the June 10, 2023 125th Anniversary of the Nichols Memorial Library building and to present the framed certificates to the sponsors at that Anniversary Celebration

# Updates: *National Register plaques*: these beautiful bronze (and heavy) plaques have arrived. Ms. Morse reported that the Church on the Plains and the Sanborn Seminary had been given the appropriate plaque (with crews to mount the plaque) and that each of these entities has agreed to install/mount its plaque. The installation of the plaque at the Seminary will be delayed until the building is ready. The plaques for the Nichols Memorial Library Building and Plains Cemetery were available at the meeting for attendees to see! Mr. Bean is helping to look for an appropriate stone (to be moved to outside the Nichols building) for the mounting of the Nichol’s National Registry plaque; the goal is to have the Nichols plaque mounted in time for the June 10, 2023 Anniversary Celebration. Mr. Landry gave a description of Kingston’s DPW’s plans for the placement of the plaque at Plains Cemetery. We thank Ms. Morse for a job well done

# Updates: *Documentation*: Mr. Bean explained that each documentation package consisted of written material and also (placed in the back of the booklet) a DVD of pictures. There are a number of “Hardcopies” of each booklet: Mr. Bean and each person working on the booklet gets a copy; a copy is also given to the HC, the Museum, and the Kingston Community Library. Current status:

# ● Sanborn Seminary - written documentation is completed; waiting DVD of pictures

# ● Peaslee Tavern – documentation completed

# ● 1940’s central Fire Station (which has been demolished and replaced) - WIP

# New Business: *2023 New Projects:* Mr. Landry and Mr. Bean updated the list of possible projects. Mr. Landry presented the list; discussion points included giving projects a “rating”, identifying people who would be willing to “own” the project, if project was doable”, etc., To see definition of projects, please refer to “Possible Heritage Commission Projects 2023”

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● **Project: Brochure**

**Status/Action 2023 04 27:** Delay / table action at this time

● **Project: Letters to owners of historic homes**

**Status/Action 2023 04 27:** Project owners identified as Mr. Landry & Mr. Bean

**Rating 2023 04 27:** High since project seen as doable and with a payoff

● **Project: Assessment of Old Fire Station (ie: the 1895 fire station which is part of the Historic Museum Complex)** if DPW interested

**Status/Action 2023 04 27:** Mr. Landry will talk with Mr. Coombs, DPW to determine if an appropriate time to start the project has been identified

● **Project: Plains Cemetery: brochure, walking tour, 300th anniversary celebration in 2025**

**Training Prior to 2023 04 27**: members of KDPW, Mr. Landry, and Mr. Roy have received training to clean grave stones

**Status/Action 2023 04 27:** Project owneridentified as Mr. Landry; Ms. Morse volunteered to be on the team

**Rating 2023 04 27:** Essential

● **Project: Joint HC/KCC Town Forest History Project** (if KCC Interested)

**Status/Action 2023 04 27:** Mr. Landry to talk with Ms. Nathan, Kingston Conservation Commission, to determine KCC’s interest/availability; Ms. LeClaire volunteered to be on the team

● **Project: Seacoast HC/HDC Meeting:**

**Status/Action 2023 04 27:** After discussion, it was decided that this project would involve considerable coordination and research. The Commission does not have a volunteer to lead the effort.  Delay / table action at this time

● **Project: Hearse House Easement (**possibly assist DPW and/or Trustees of the Trust Fund)

**Status/Action 2023 04 27:** Mr. Coppelman to contact Mr. Richard Wilson to get a current status

**Rating 2023 04 27**: Beneficial: the Hearse House (along with a number of grave stones) was an element of the National Register nomination for the town’s Plains Cemetery. Since the building sits on private property (vs. town property), it would be beneficial to acquire an easement or title to the small section of land on which it sits

● **Project: Scanning “Lost Histories” and loading on-line**

**Status/Action 2023 04 27:** Ms. LeClaire volunteered to take the booklets (for the Histories which have not yet been scanned) home to scan them. Mr. Bean suggested that Ms. LeClaire use the HC copies. A discussion ensured on the correct procedures to have the DVDs backed up

● **Project: Public Engagement**

**Status/Action 2023 04 27:** Delay / table action at this time

● **Project: Education**

**Status/Action 2023 04 27:** Delay / table action at this time

● **Project: Demolition Review Ordinance**

**History Prior to 2023 04 27:** project was started a number of years ago and was then put on hold due to several obstacles

**Status/Action 2023 04 27:**  Our first thoughts were table/delay the project, but then it was suggested that we look at other ways beside an ordinance to attempt to assist a home owner and/or to obtain time to document a property. It was also suggested that the “climate” of the Town may have changed since prior attempt

**BOS and Other Town Organization updates: BOS:**

● The BOS has received 5 applications for the BOS position which recently opened up. The end of

the term for the appointed person will be the end of March, 2024

● The Town has new council

● The Town has a new health officer: David Field

**BOS and Other Town Organization updates: HDC *(****reminder: the Historic District Commission is charged with preserving the historical and architectural heritage of Kingston’s Historic Districts):*

● The HDC continues to work to increase communication with residents to inform them of the good work being done by the HDC and the HDC continues to look for support from the HC

● A Petitioned Warrant Article (approved in March, 2023) removed the need for a permit *(understood at this time – the town’s minor building permit)* for non-occupied structures which meet select criteria. If a structure, as described above, were to be planned for a town’s historic district and that structure met any requirements that would subject that structure to HDC review/approval, the absence of a permit and the procedures associated with a permit could cause complications for the HDC. As a result, the HDC may not be able to ensure that the structure meets appropriate design guidelines until after construction

**Next Meeting**: Scheduled for 6:30 pm 2023 05 25 at the Kingston Community Library

**Meeting Adjourned:** by Mr. Landry at 8:25 pm

**Minutes recorded:** by Eileen Clifford

*Disclaimer: HC minutes are reviewed and approved (with or without amendments) at the next HC meeting. Any amendments may be found in the minutes of the subsequent meeting in which the amendments were made*