

**HERITAGE COMMISSION  
TOWN of KINGSTON, NH  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
May 25, 2023 Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Ernie Landry, Chair  
Bob Bean, Vice-Chair  
Glenn Coppelman, BOS ex officio  
Charlotte Boutin  
Eileen Clifford

**Members Not Present:**

Virginia Morse, HDC ex officio  
Holly Quellette

**Also Present:**

Walt Roy

**Call to Order:** Mr. Landry called the meeting order at 6:34 p.m.

**Acceptance of Minutes:** Mr. Coppelman made the motion to accept the minutes of the April 27, 2023 meeting; Mr. Bean seconded. Minutes approved as submitted with 1 person abstaining (due to not being present at the April meeting) and all others in favor

**Heritage Commission Anniversary:** Mr. Landry announced that May, 2023 is the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first meeting of the Kingston Heritage Commission. The Heritage Commission and the Heritage Fund were established by Town Vote on March 12, 2012; the first meeting was held on May 23, 2013. In celebration of the anniversary and in appreciation of HC members, Mr. Landry reviewed a poster which highlighted many of the HC's accomplishments and listed the names of past and current members. Accomplishments included bringing over \$100,000 (in donations and grants) into the Town. Members thanked Mr. Landry for putting together the poster

**Updates:** *Stained Glass Window (SGW) Project:*

- The newly restored windows have been installed and look great! Previous to restoration, SGW1 had been in backwards; this window is now "correctly" installed
- Mr. Roy reported that the "certificates of appreciation" (to be presented to sponsors of individual windows) are completed
- Donations: more donations have come in - narrowing the difference between the cost of the restoration and the amount collected from window sponsors
- Plaques: there is to be a customized plaques under each window (with the dedication of the sponsor) and then a larger plaque listing a) the names of sponsors of individual windows and b) the names of those who made donations to the restoration project.

The SGW subcommittee approached 4 vendors about making the plaques. The decision was made to go with *Lost Treasures Laser* of Raymond. The subcommittee is finalizing the proofs provided by *Lost Treasures Lazer*. The goal remains to have the window plaques installed prior

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to the June 10 Celebration of the 12th Anniversary of the Nichols Memorial Library building  
(see below for more on the celebration)

**Updates: *National Register Plaques:***

- Plaque for the Nichols Memorial Library building: Mr. Phil Coombs donated and installed a beautiful/suitable stone on which to mount the plaque. This stone came from the Coombs property, from where, it is understood, a number of stones in the building came from. Plaque to be presented at the June 10 Celebration of the 125 Anniversary of the Nichols Memorial Library building
- Plaque for the Church on the Plains: A rock on which to install the plaque has been chosen. The landscape, etc at the church is being revamped; the plaque will be mounted as part of that process (ie: towards the end of the process)
- Plaque for the Plains Cemetery: more work needs to be done on the well house before that plaque can be mounted

**Updates: *Nichols Memorial Library Building Anniversary Celebration:*** Preparation continues. Mr. Landry gave a synopsis/schedule of the Celebration events and Mr. Roy reported that a) displays in the museum have been moved resulting in more space within the building to better accommodate the celebration and guests, and b) great looking new buntings have been put up

**Updates: *Documentation:*** Mr. Landry discussed the goal of getting more of Kingston historical documentation into the State of NH's online database of thousands of historical records. This database is called the Enhanced Mapping & Management Information Tool (EMMIT) and is a publicly-accessible Geographic Information System administered by the NH Division of Historical Resources (DHR). At this time, Mr. Landry, Mr. Bean, and Ms. Morse have access to EMMIT

**Updates: *2023 New Projects:***

- **Project: Letters to owners of historic homes** (project rated as a high priority)

**Status 2023 05 25:** no updates

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

**Status 2023 05 25:** no updates

- **Project: Plains Cemetery: brochure, walking tour, 300th anniversary celebration in 2025** (project rated as essential)

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**Status/Action 2023 05 25:** Mr. Phil Coombs (DPW department head) will start to assign trained members of the DPW staff to clean the grave stones and reset those that have fallen or are leaning. Mr. Coombs also gave the “ok” so that others who had been trained (specifically Mr. Roy, Mr. Richard Wilson, Mr. Landry, and Ms. Liz Landry) could also start to clean stones. It is critical to use the proper material when cleaning the stones

A meeting has be scheduled to meet with the Trustees of the Trust Fund to share our plans and to gauge their interest in getting involved

Ms. Melissa Mannon (Director of the Kingston Community Library) is very interested in the Library participating in some fashion. Possible activities might include a display of photos of significant gravestones and hosting talks on gravestone iconography, histories of significant people, etc. Ms. Mannon has done some scholarly work on gravestone iconography

**Understanding the scope 2023 05 25:** Discussion: there is an abundance of historical data to be gathered, organized, and shared about the Plains Cemetery . The history of the cemetery reflects the history of the town and residents. For example, there are 15 American Revolutionary War veterans buried there and 25 veterans from the Civil War

- **Project: Joint HC/KCC Town Forest History/Archaeology Project** (if KCC Interested).

**Status/Action 2023 05 25:** Ms. Evy Nathan, KCC, is interested pending being able to have a member of the KCC engaged in the project. At this time, KCC has a number of projects in place. Mr. Landry plans to attend the June 7 KCC meeting to discuss.

**Understanding the scope 2023 05 25:** The targeted forest at this time is the Valley Lane Forest

- **Project: Hearse House Easement** (possibly assist DPW and/or Trustees of the Trust Fund; project is rated beneficial )

**Status/Action 2023 05 25:** Mr. Coppelman contacted Mr. Richard Wilson and confirmed no recent action. Discussion ensued with regard to sensitive issues, whom best to contact next, and when to get the Trustees of the Trust Fund involved. Mr. Coppelman will follow-up

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

**Status/Action 2023 05 25:** WIP - Ms. Gloria LeClaire is scanning the booklets

**Next Steps as Defined 2023 05 25:** When scanning is complete, the data is to be loaded on to the town web site and also sent to NHDHR as possible entries into EMMIT

- **Project: Demolition Review Ordinance**

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**Status 2023 05 25:** Put project on hold as the Kingston's Building and Code Enforcement Officer recently resigned (see BOS update below). Re-activate project when the forthcoming Building and Code Enforcement Officer is acclimated to his/her new job

**New Business:**

**Deed Research:** Several projects (ie: Documentation, Lost Histories, and the Town Forest History/ Archaeology Project) can involve deed research, which can become difficult. Discussion: use social media to look for a volunteer with profession qualifications to work with the HC to research specific parcels. As Ms. Donna Roy has experience with deed research, Mr. Roy was asked to see if Ms. Roy would be interested in helping out with select research

**Kingston Days Update:** the Kingston Days Committee is asking that the perspective carnival vendor leave room around the bandstand for the stairs to come down

**BOS Update:**

- As the Building and Code Enforcement Officer resigned, the search is on for a replacement. In the meantime, options (such as making use of an officer from another town) are being examined
- Sound proofing: Kingston's DPW is installing sound / acoustical panels on the ceiling and walls in the Hall of the Town Hall. Due to the height of the hall, DPW purchased staging to make installing the panels a safer task. Also - installing nylon skirting on tables to improve sound quality
- Sound equipment: recently, there were more complaints than usual by those trying to view meetings broadcasted on-line. Mr. Adam Faulconer viewed the wiring and found/fixed a loose connection. Also - the new mics are (still) not in
- Being new at being an "BOS, ex officio" representative to several boards, including the HC, Mr. Coppelman has researched requirements and obligations of the position; Mr. Coppelman reported on his findings

**Next Meeting:** scheduled for June 22, 6:30 p.m. at the Kingston Community Library

**Meeting Adjourned:** 7:35 by Mr. Landry

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*