

**HERITAGE COMMISSION
TOWN of KINGSTON, NH
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
July 27, 2023 Minutes**

Attendance: Members Present:

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

Also Present:

Walt Roy

Members Not Present:

Susan Prescott, HDC ex officio
Charlotte Boutin

Call to Order: Mr. Landry called the meeting order at 6:40 p.m.

Acceptance of Minutes: Mr. Coppelman made the motion to accept the minutes of the May 25, 2023 meeting; Mr. Bean seconded; minutes unanimously approved as submitted. (FYI: the June 22, 2023 meeting was canceled in advance)

Letter of Resignation: Holly Ouellette, Heritage Commission (HC) member since the HC began in 2013, resigned effective May 22, 2023. Ms. Ouellette will be missed

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

- The newly restored windows were one of the highlights of the June 10th Celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the Nichols Memorial Library building, headquarters of the Kingston Historical Museum. The event was well attended by the public and town officials. Attendees included a number of donors to the project and also sponsors of 7 windows.

Sally Leety-Stevens (Friends of the Kingston Historical Museum Association, Inc.,) presented research and documentation on the Renaissance Printers Devices (Trade Marks) which are featured in the center of the stained glass windows.

Mr. Landry presented framed certificates of appreciation (which were created by Mr. Roy) to the window sponsors who were in attendance.

The front page of the Carriage Town News (June 22, 2023) featured a great photo of the event

- Donations: Additional donations have been recently received. The total amount of donations/sponsorships to the project now equals the contracted amount of \$41,500
- The costs of the window plaques, the plaque listing the names of both donors and sponsors to the project, and the certificates of appreciation were funded by the HC budget
- Documentation of the Restoration Details of each window: Mr. Landry met with Tom Driscoll of Sash & Solder. Mr. Driscoll provided a detailed “rubbing” (something like a “blue print”) of

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every repair / replacement made to the 11 windows during the restoration. A copy of the rubbings (both digital and hard-copy) were given “to the Museum” to be archived.

Mr. Landry projected one of the rubbings on a big screen so that we could all share in the understanding of these exciting documents

- The donor-sponsor plaque is now mounted on a wall in the Nichols Memorial Library building
- Members and friends (both current and past) of the HC donated extraordinary amounts of time, talent and more to this now completed multi-year project. Thank you!

Updates: Grace Daley Barn:

- Phil Combs, Director of Kingston DPW, conducted an invasive inspection of the barn and prepared a comprehensive report. Rehabilitation will be done per Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

As the barn needs to be raised, there are concerns with the Grace Daley Ell because of how the ell and the barn are currently attached. The plan is to disconnect the two building and try to save the ell.

The plans include: addressing the roof next spring; completing excavation, interior repairs, and exterior repairs this year. The hope is that Kingston's DPW would do much of the work

Updates: Plains Cemetery – Celebration for 300th Anniversary of the Cemetery in 2025 and Rehabilitation Work): *this is a huge and many faceted project*

- **Discussion 2023 07 27:**

Have a Steering Committee which would include a representative from a number of town groups/entities such as: HC, HDC, “the Museum”, Trustees of the Trust Fund, the Community Library, and DPW.

Major tasks vary from organizing the celebration, cleaning and repairing hundreds of grave stones, collecting data on the graves (the estimate is more than 1,400 burials), researching archives, creating (with help from the KCL) databases of accessible data, gravestone iconography, and more. The crews repairing/cleaning grave stones are helping with data collection by documenting data from the stones being worked on.

Priorities include: the 79 funerary objects which were documented as Contributing Resources in the Application for Placement on the National Register of Historic Places; graves sites of those who fought in the American Revolutionary War, grave sites of those who fought in the Civil War, and more.

Exhibits shared by Mr. Landry: pictures of a number of the grave stones which were in disrepair; the pictures demonstrated the effect of cleaning the stones; and a detailed layout of the cemetery with burial sites indicated

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Conservators will most likely be needed for the most complicated repairs.

More people are to be trained to clean stones and do minor repairs. People with additional skills and equipment will most likely be needed to maneuver the bigger/heavier stones.

Updates: Letters to Owners of Historic Homes

- **Status/Action 2023 07 27:** the team is updating the list of homes

Updates: Joint HC/KCC Valley Lane Town Forest History/Archaeology Project

- **Status 2023 07 27:** Mr. Landry conferred with Evy Nathan, KCC; the project remains on hold for several more weeks as KCC is not yet available. Gloria LeClair has volunteered to participate in the project.

Updates: Scanning / Uploading of Lost Histories

- **Status /Action 2023 07 27:** Gloria LeClair finished scanning the back-log of Lost Histories; Caitlin Milhomme (Deputy Town Clerk - Tax Collector) is loading the scanned histories on-line

Updates: Documentation

- **Status 2024 07 27:** The 1940's Central Fire Station Documentation is complete but not yet published and not yet scanned/uploaded

New Business: Metal Detecting on Town Property was discussed in order to determine whether the Heritage Commission is in favor of some sort of policy with regard to rules, ownership of found objects, Native American sites, "policing", etc. No decisions made

New Business: Kingston Days September 8 – 10

- Booths for Town organizations will be situated in one area
- Discussion included making updates to the Heritage Commission 3-panel display unit. A work group was planned for the week of July 31

Updates from BOS:

- There is NO audio temporarily on the live meeting broadcasts on the Town's cable station. The necessary replacement equipment has been ordered. In the meantime, replays of the meetings are available on-line on YouTube.

(FYI: a message on the cable station addresses the current issue of sound (or not) on the live cable broadcasts and the cable replays of meetings)

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- The long awaited new mics for the Hall in the Town Hall Building are due the week of August 8th. Numerous sound improvement materials have already been installed
- The code enforcer position remains on hold as the current arrangements for permits, inspections, etc. are working fine and saving the money
- WIP: a PFAS remediation grant of \$288K was approved to treat wells
- WIP: a grant from InvestNH Municipal Grant Demolition Program has been accepted by the town on behalf of the property owner to support the demolition of the Science Building (which is on the property that is/was the Sanborn Seminary Property).

(FYI: InvestNH is aimed at stabilizing the housing market by helping with local solutions to make it easier to build housing affordable to the workforce)

Next Meeting: scheduled for August 24, 6:30 p.m. at the Kingston Community Library

Meeting Adjourned: 8:35 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