

## **KINGSTON HERITAGE COMMISSION**

Meeting Notes from the meeting held:

April 24, 2014

at the Library

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

Ernie Landry called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

**Members in Attendance:** Ernie Landry; Bob Bean; Gail Ramsey; Gary Finerty  
Late Arrivals: Jane Christie; Debra Powers; Holly Ouellette

**Previous Minutes:** Motion made by Gary, and seconded by Bob to accept the meeting notes from the meeting held 3/27/2014 as written with 3 yes and 1 abstain.

### **Old Business:**

Attendance at Regional Meeting – Ernie gave us a brief summary of the meeting attended by Deb Powers, Stacy Smoyer, Ernie Landry, and Susan Prescott.

The talk was by Maggie Stier, NH Preservation Alliance on “Who’s Managing your History”

- It focused on a need for coordination between Town Groups.
- Also discussed that some towns had a Demolition Hold Plan for historic buildings to allow time until all options can be investigated.
- They saw a nice map that color coded house lots based on the age of the house for public awareness.

Ernie promised to summarize his notes and send them to all.

Bandstand: Not much new to update this month. Bob Pothier is waiting to talk to movers who will lift building. Ernie stated that the bandstand is not eligible for the State Register, only as a part of the Historic District, unless there is some part of its construction that is unique. Museum Task Force has been scanning glass plates from Harry Whiskers Clark, and there are some pictures available of how it looked in ~1890.

Inventory: Bob told about the progress on scanning the 1983 inventory. The cover memo, and all HD1, And HD2 house sheets have been scanned by Ernie, Walt Roy, and Bob. There are 6 books in the set, and we are ½ way through the second book. It may be possible we may have them available on the Heritage Web Page as reduced pdf files. We are working with Cathy Grant to try to set this up.

### Inventory (Continued)

We found a 2003 inventory in Concord. Also found a 2008 Inventory of HD1 done for the Hannaford review. The 2003 report has a lovely and comprehensive cover memo. It may be possible to get some of these electronically from the groups who produced them. Bob described how they were written, and some of the content. The 1983 survey covers houses built before 1933 (50 years old or more). The cover memo on the 1983 survey explained that Kingston's population was flat from 1750 to 1940 at about 1000 people. It is now closer to 8000, due to growth since 1940.

Certified Local Government (CLG): Ernie described the recent trip to Concord by Ernie, Walt Roy, Deb Powers and Susan Prescott. We went there to discuss what it would take to get a CLG grant. We met with people in DHR and Nadine Peterson. We were given factors we needed to consider and decide before getting a grant.

Issues discussed

- What is our goal.
- What info do we need.
- What is available, and why do we need this effort.
- Doing an update survey would be a large project.
- We should try to do a small project first.
- Grants need educational and outreach part.
- We would need multiple quotes for the effort we were trying to do.

After some discussion, there were three possibilities,

- A Reuse Feasability Study on the Daley house using an architect, lawyer and Developer.
- An Archeological survey of old and abandoned stone structures foundations in Kingston. There are many old mill sites, foundations, etc. We could locate and identify them.
- Or doing nothing at this time. Due to the short time frame and the effort expected to write it, this option was generally agreed to be best. We should focus on working out the Bandstand grant, and consider doing something else next year.
- It was suggested we should talk to Lynn Monroe to help us prioritize. Deb will call and ask her if she would talk to us.

Grace Daley House: While we were in Concord, we met with Maggie Stier, of the NH Preservation Alliance.

### Grace Daley (Continued)

On the Grace Daley house, Maggie suggested possible options:

- A feasibility Reuse study is possible, It should include an architect, realtor, etc. We discussed that it might be difficult to justify spending money on a building slated for demolition. NH Preservation Alliance does not have any money to help us here.
- The group seemed to read a lack of optimism to be able to save this property. But there are several options to investigate:
  - Community Supported Enterprise, where the building is owned by an entity who doesn't need great profit. Shares might be sold and run as a non-profit. She cited some examples, Robie store in Hookset. Akworth, and Wakefield have done things like this
  - Move to another location. She suggested Geddes Moving. Bob will be talking to him.
  - Historic Curatorship, where the tenant fixes up the building in exchange for a long term lease
  - There may be some (5-13 years) tax relief for rehab of a historic building.
- We may have luck finding local donors. Holly says Jim Foy is looking for a project to donate to.
- Maggie told us that she has had discussions with Ben Wilson, and asked us to have Ruth Albert contact them. The NHPA, Bureau of Historical Sites may be interested in buying the Josiah Bartlett house. Bob explained that Ruth has been told, and is setting up a meeting.

Sanborn Seminary Building: Holly told us about the meeting attended by her and Deb. She shared the handout she took away. Use of the building is restricted to Educational purposes. Holly told us some of the concerns, that the school building had serious fire code issues. The next meeting will be on April 30 at 6PM at the old High School, to tour Headmasters house, and seminary building. This meeting is open to HC members.

### **New Business:**

Library and Nichols Open House - Bob mentioned that the Library and Nichols will be having an open house on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 10AM-2PM. It would be a great opportunity for the HC to attend and explain what we are doing.

HDC Pictures - Ernie explained that HDC is having pictures taken by Evy Nathan for a slide presentation.

Museum Task Force - Jane said the Museum Task Force has formally dissolved. Work will carry on under the Museum committee.

NEDCC – Digital Webinars – Jane told us about webinars available free on April 30 and May 1 about digitizing records. Jane will send info out.

Next HC meeting - will be on Thursday, May 22, 2014 at 7: 00 PM at the Library.

Next Month, Gail will take the minutes.

Adjourn - A motion to adjourn was made by Gary and seconded by Bob. It was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Minutes were taken by Bob Bean.