

Town of Kingston, NH Heritage Commission
Public Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2021

Call to Order: Chairman Ernie Landry called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Identification of members present was made through roll call as were all the votes on motions.

Members present:

Bob Bean	Debra Powers	Richard Wilson (BOS Ex Officio)
Ernie Landry	Holly Ouellette	Eileen Clifford
Virginia Morse (HDC – Ex Officio)	Charlotte Boutin (Alternate)	
Jane Christie (Alternate)		

Members absent: Adam Faulconer (Alternate)

Others present: Walter Roy, Lesley Hume

January 28th meeting minutes: Motion to accept made by Ms. Ouellette and seconded by Mr. Bean. Roll call vote was held to accept minutes as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers:

Motion to elect Mr. Landry as Chairperson was made by Ms. Powers and seconded by Ms. Clifford. Roll call vote was taken. Mr. Landry abstained. Remainder of members voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Mr. Landry and seconded by Ms. Powers to elect Mr. Bean as Vice-Chairperson. Roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Ms. Ouellette and seconded by Ms. Powers to elect Ms. Clifford as Treasurer. Roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously. (This vote actually occurred further in the course of the meeting but is reported here).

Mr. Landry indicated that he became aware that the terms of office for Alternates had been changed to one year which means all alternate appointments will need to be renewed. He also mentioned that he asked that the Board of Selectmen change the terms of office to 3 years (this is consistent with RSA). He is also asking that the terms be staggered so that all appointments don't expire at the same time. Mr. Landry also asked the alternates to let him know if they are interested in reappointment.

Updates:

Plains Cemetery National Register Application Status: Ms. Powers indicated that the project is progressing as scheduled and we expect to receive a draft of the nomination in the immediate future. She also indicated that we will likely hold a ceremony to celebrate the listing on the National Register once that is accomplished.

Grace Daley Barn Assessment Grant Application Status: Mr. Landry expects that the Town will be receiving the barn assessment report within the next two weeks.

Stained Glass Windows - The sub-committee for this project includes Ms. Powers, Mr. Bean, Mr. Roy, Mr. Landry and Ralph Murphy (HDC). The subcommittee has had one meeting.

Mr. Landry mentioned that one of the first major tasks is to develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the project. Mr. Landry will work on this with the Road Agent and possibly with help from an expert to ensure the RFP lists all the requirements. The RFP will have broad distribution.

Concurrent with RFP development will be an effort to get an idea of the probable cost of the project overall so the team can understand the scope of the fundraising necessary and the possible methods. This could include various levels of donation ranging from a donation to cover the full cost of restoring a window to partial donations, with some recognition of the donors likely in the form of a plaque (s).

Mr. Landry indicated that the team is recommending that the project involve full restoration of the windows rather than just a repair. The windows are over 120 years old. They vary in the degree of deterioration. They are all way past the normal expected life of the lead components which hold the glass together so full restoration would eliminate the need for further repairs in the near future. Professionals who have examined the windows also recommended full restoration.

The group also recommends a phased approach to the project. This would involve having several windows done at a time rather than all of them at once. Since the repairs will not be done on-site this will eliminate the need to have a large number of temporary window coverings in place for a long period and potentially allow for phased funding. Ms. Hume indicated her belief that the stained glass windows and double hung windows shared a common frame and that this might be an issue when the stained glass windows are removed and suggested that the sub-committee might consider whether it would be better to repair both types of windows at the same time.

Mr. Landry indicated that each of the windows has an emblem of a printer's device from a Renaissance period printer. The group has tentatively identified each of the printers represented but will the information verified further.

Facebook - Mr. Landry indicated that the Facebook site is still a work in progress. A discussion ensued as to whether the Commission should continue work on this project or whether it should use other currently available resources like the Heritage Commission web page and the Kingston Public Facebook page to disseminate information.

After a discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Bean and seconded by Ms. Clifford that the Commission discontinue work on the Heritage Commission Facebook Page and rely on the other available resources mentioned above. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Bean, Ms. Clifford, Ms. Morse, Ms. Ouellette and Mr. Landry voting affirmatively and with Ms. Powers and Mr. Wilson abstaining. Motion passed.

Documentation:

History Book - Mr. Bean provided an update on the Kingston History Book. All major sections are written and in editing. There are 14 chapters completed and in PDF format. The group is reviewing the index and this may change some minor aspects of content. The appendix is completed. The group is getting quotes for printing. The group hopes to get the entire file to the printer in the next two weeks. The group is looking at the end of May or early June for release of the book.

Historic Preservation Books – Mr. Landry and Ms. Mateyk, Library Director, are collaborating on possible historic preservation books that the Heritage Commission will purchase and give to the Library as reference material for resident owners of historic houses and barns and for use by Heritage Commission members in their work.

Fundraising: There was limited discussion of fundraising with no specific plan developed.

Outreach/Publicity:

Mr. Landry indicated that he has prepared an article for the Carriage Towne News regarding the Grace Daley Barn Assessment Grant.

The current Heritage Commission recruitment poster is out of date and needs updating. Mr. Landry and Ms. Clifford will work on updating it.

New Business:

Seacoast HC/HDC Meeting – The group had deferred discussion on hosting a possible Seacoast HC/HDC meeting until spring. A decision needs to be made on whether to sponsor one or not. Based on the number of projects on the Commission's plate, the group decided it will not host such a meeting.

National Register Plaques – This is a project to obtain markers to be placed on town facilities listed on the National Register of Historic Places (Nichols Memorial Library and the Plains Cemetery once it's placed on the NRHP). Mr. Bean will be leading this project with Ms. Clifford and Ms. Ouellette as members. He indicated that the group will also coordinate with owners of other properties on the National Register once we've determine what type of plaque we want to see if they are interested in purchasing plaques for their properties. In addition to determining the appropriate type and source of the plaques the group will need to determine appropriate methods for displaying them. It might not be feasible to drill into the stone or granite of the Nichols Building and the Plains Cemetery has no appropriate surface.

Ms. Hume suggested that the group look at the possibility of using larger signs consistent with those used in the NH Historical Highway Marker Program. Examples are a sign at the Josiah Bartlett House which is in the marker program and one at the Masonic Temple which is not believed to be.

Historic Agricultural Structures Easement Program – Mr. Landry explained that NH RSAs authorizes towns and cities to grant property tax relief to owners of historic agricultural structures who agree to maintain their structures throughout a minimum 10-year preservation easement. The structures must be at least 75 years old. Applications for this program are due by April 15th. The town has received one application so far and expects others. The Selectmen will hold a public hearing and possibly site walks as part of the approval process. Mr. Landry encouraged members to learn more about the program by possibly viewing the public hearing and/or attending a site walk.

Old House and Barn Expo on the Road – This program is normally held by the NH Preservation alliance every two years. This year, due to Covid, it will be held virtually. Mr. Landry encouraged members to view the catalog of presentations and consider participating. There are a variety of topics which would be useful in developing our skills in historic preservation.

BOS/Other Town Organization Updates:

Ms. Morse indicated that, with the advent of spring, the HDC is beginning to receive applications from residents who intend to make repairs or renovations to their Historic District properties.

Next Meeting – April 22, 2021 at 7:00 PM on Zoom.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM

Disclaimer: HC minutes are reviewed and approved (with or without amendments) at the next HC meeting. The original minutes are posted as submitted; any amendments may be found in the minutes of the subsequent meeting in which the amendments were made.