

**Town of Kingston, NH Heritage Commission
Public Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2021**

Call to Order: Chairman Ernie Landry called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. The meeting was held in person at the Kingston Town Hall.

Members present:

Debra Powers	Richard Wilson (BOS Ex Officio)	Ernie Landry
Eileen Clifford	Holly Ouellette	Charlotte Boutin (Alternate)

Ms. Boutin will serve in the capacity of a full member during this meeting, replacing Mr. Bean who is absent.

Members absent: Virginia Morse (HDC Rep.), Bob Bean

Guest: Walter Roy

October 28, 2021 meeting minutes: Motion to accept minutes as written made by Ms. Powers and seconded by Ms. Clifford. Motion passed with four in favor and Ms. Ouellette abstaining.

Updates:

Plains Cemetery National Register Application Status: Ms. Powers indicated that we are still waiting to hear from the NH Division of Historical Resources (NHDHR) regarding approval by the National Park Service (NPS). If approved we will hold a ceremony in the spring or early summer recognizing the approval.

Grace Daley Barn Assessment Grant Application Status: Mr. Landry indicate that he and Mr. St. Hilaire, Road Agent, met with the Board of Selectmen to make them aware of the project and the intent to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to obtain estimates to repair the sills and foundation and that the roof will also need to be repaired. The RFP was sent out to 5 contractors. December 22nd will be an opportunity for them to tour the barn in preparation to submit a proposal. Proposals are due to the town by January 14th. Mr. Wilson indicated that the Board of Selectmen (BOS) may decide to initiate a warrant article asking that the funds be raised and appropriated through the building maintenance fund.

Stained Glass Window Project: The town has received a proposal (at the request of Mr. St. Hilaire) from Tom Driscoll of Sash and Solder Window Restoration for restoration of one window. The purpose of this restoration will be to use the window as a “show and tell” example of how the windows will look when restored, as part of a fundraising effort. Mr. Driscoll also provided the town with an estimate for an overall fundraising goal of somewhere between \$28,000 and \$40,000 to restore all the stained glass windows in the Nichols Building.

Documentation:

History Book – Mr. Wilson indicated that the books are still selling but at a slower pace. He also indicated that advertising has slowed as well. Mr. Roy, visitor and member of the History Book Committee, indicated that there is intent to increase advertising. Mr. Wilson indicated that all expenses to produce the book have been covered. (Mr. Wilson left the meeting at this point)

Scanning of Lost History Documents – Mr. Landry asked for a project leader to complete scanning of the Lost History documentation. Mr. Landry sent a PDF of the Cheney Mill documentation to NHDHR who indicated an interest in obtaining PDFs of the other books as we have them scanned. Mr. Landry indicated that it would be good to have this documentation on our web page as well. Ms. Powers and Ms. Clifford volunteered to undertake the project.

Review/discussion of By-laws, Rules of Procedure, and General Governing Rules – This discussion was postponed until next meeting because some members were absent and others had not had time to review the proposed changes.

New Business:

Sanborn Seminary Project - Mr. Landry indicated that Mr. Chinburg has changed the project on the Science Building. Mr. Chinburg’s initial proposal was to *renovate* the Science Building, located at 178 Main Street, into market rate apartments. The current plan involves *demolition* of the Science Building and replacing it with new construction. This change requires that additional documentation be provided by the Heritage Commission to the Board of Selectmen (BOS), indicating whether the Commission feels that the Science Building possesses significant historical, cultural or architectural value and whether the new structure will achieve one of the public benefits necessary under NHRSA 79-E. Mr. Landry believes that this documentation will likely need to be provided to the BOS prior to our next meeting. He indicated his belief that the building doesn’t possess significant historical, cultural and architectural significance and gave a rationale for this determination. He asked for the Commission’s approval to prepare the letter based on this information without having to convene a meeting of the Commission to approve the final document.

Motion was made by Ms. Ouellette and seconded by Ms. Boutin that Mr. Landry and Ms. Powers may prepare the letter to the BOS based on the rationale provided and without further review and approval by the members. Motion passed unanimously.

Membership in National Alliance of Preservation Commissions – Mr. Landry indicated that he has enrolled the Town of Kingston heritage organizations in a membership to the NAPC. All members of the Heritage Commission and Historic District Commission are eligible. Benefits of membership are: receive the Alliance Review, a quarterly publication, access to sample design guidelines from towns and cities across the country, access to a technical assistance library (articles, research studies, etc), and training on a variety of historic preservation subjects. Mr. Landry is the point of contact (POC) for membership. Anyone interested in membership to be able to access the benefits should indicate their interest to Mr. Landry who will provide their name and email address to the NAPC for enrollment.

Warrant Article for Town meeting – The group discussed whether to propose a warrant article for town meeting asking the town to raise and appropriate money for the Heritage Fund. After discussion a motion was made by Ms. Powers and seconded by Ms. Ouellette to prepare a warrant article asking the town to raise and appropriate \$5000 to the Heritage Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

Archaeology – Mr. Landry discussed an archaeological report that Ms. Evy Nathan, Chairperson of the Conservation Commission prepared regarding the historic foundation at Frye Rd. Town Forest. He believes that it's important that the Heritage Commission participate with the Conservation Commission in preparing these types of reports on historic foundations on Town Forest properties. Ms. Nathan would like to do a similar project on the foundation on the Orange Trail at Valley Lane Town Forest. Mr. Landry asked for volunteers. Ms. Clifford volunteered to participate.

Other Business: No other business was discussed.

BOS/Other Town Organization Updates: No updates.

Next Meeting – January 27, 2021 at 6:30 PM at the Kingston Community Library.

Adjournment – Mr. Landry adjourned the meeting at 8:04 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.