

HERITAGE COMMISSION
Town of Kingston
Public Meeting
August 24, 2023 Minutes

Attendance: Members Present:

Ernie Landry, Chair
Bob Bean, Vice-Chair
Susan Prescott, HDC ex officio
Eileen Clifford

Also Present:

Walt Roy
Gloria LeClair

Members Not Present:

Charlotte Boutin
Glenn Coppelman, BOS representative

Call to Order: At 6:32 p.m. by Mr. Landry

Acceptance of Minutes: Mr. Bean made a motion to accept the July 27, 2023 minutes; seconded by Ms. Clifford. Discussion followed as all pages but the first page of the minutes had the incorrect meeting date in the page heading. The minutes (with date in heading corrected) were approved unanimously

Updates: Grace Daley Barn

- The plan for the implementation schedule remains the same:
 - roof work in the spring of 2024
 - excavation, interior repairs, and exterior repairs to be completed this fall
- Select details:
 - DPW has contacted local mills regarding hemlock sills and joists. DPW is asking that the new joists be milled at full length of 22 feet. Lift-equipment has already been lined up
 - The barn is post and beam. DPW has a post and beam consultant lined up if needed
 - The Grace Daley Barn is a town owned property within a Historic District.
The current plan is to install a metal roof on the barn. This design feature is of interest to the HDC. While the town is exempt from HDC guidelines, the HDC will be consulted

Updates to “2023 Projects”: Plains Cemetery - Celebration for 300th Anniversary of the Cemetery in 2025 and Rehabilitation Work); *this is a huge and many faceted project*

- **Status/Action 2023 08 24 on Funerary Pieces:**

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- about 50 funerary pieces have been cleaned to-date. The workers cleaning the stones gathered considerable data about the graves
- Mr. Landry contacted a number of other town groups/entities asking for more volunteers to help with the cleaning, righting of select grave stones, etc. People from the Kingston Community Library, the Historical Museum Committee, Friends of the Museum, Trustees of the Trust Fund, and HDC have expressed interest. Recruits include attendees Ms. LeClair and Ms. Prescott.

Mr. Landry will arrange for John Lord of the New Hampshire Old Graveyard Association to teach the class. Material to clean the stones with will continue to be provided by DPW

- **Status 2023 08 24 Steering Committee:** Mr. Landry asked the Library, the Museum Committee, Trustees of the Trust Fund, HDC, and DPW for the name of a person from each group who would join and participate in the project's Steering Committee
- **General Discussion 2023 08 24**
 - The map of the 1400 grave sites has the name of the owner of the plot
 - Virginia Morse, HDC continues to be willing to help with the planning of the celebration
 - The plan continues to be to put the data about the cemetery into a database where the data would be available to the public. The current hope is to use the Museum's Past Perfect database
 - As experiences gained from this project could be used in Kingston's other cemeteries, notes of what works and what does not work will be kept
 - Ms. Prescott described a feature consisting of material posted at the entrance to a cemetery which she visited in Ireland. The material was very helpful in navigating within that cemetery

Updates to "2023 Projects": Letters to Owners of Historic Homes

- **Status/Action 2023 08 24:** the team continues to both update the list of homes and to work on a draft of the letter

Updates to "2023 Projects": joint HC/KCC Valley Lane Town Forest History/Archaeology Project

- **Status/Action 2023 08 24:** there is to be a planning meeting the week of September 18. On-the-ground tasks will include taking measurements of the well site and the bank barn cellar. Ms. LeClair and Mr. Landry will represent HC.

The data will be captured using a form from the Division of Historic Resources (DHR) with the idea of submitting the data to DHR

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Updates: Documentation

- **Status/Action 2023 08 24:** The 1940's Central Fire Station Documentation includes a photo of the last group of firefighters/crew to work in the building. The documentation team is obtaining the names to accompany the photo. Next step is to get the booklet printed

New Business: Kingston Days September 8 - 10 (Friday - Sunday)

HC is having a booth which will be included in an area with booths from other town organizations. The booth will be "manned" on Saturday, September 9.

- Set-up of materials, display units, a tent, tables, etc. is planned for early am (+/- 6:30)
- Volunteers to help Mr. Landry staff the booth are most welcome. Mr. Bean and Mr. Roy plan to participate. Ms. Prescott will inquire within HDC for volunteers
- Mr. Landry, with help from Mr. Bean and Mr. Roy, is re-designing the layout of data to be displayed the multi-piece display unit
- HC is happy to include material from HDC. Mr. Landry and Ms. Prescott will verify respective inventories for copies of the HDC Walking Tour Brochure and for copies of a video
- In the past, we had an 8.5 by 11 handout on HC. Mr. Landry and Ms. Clifford will follow-up if to update the handout or to exclude it

Updates from Historic District Commission (HDC):

- HDC is working with Planning Board on reviewing and neatening up the regulation documentation

New Business: T-Shirt Project

- **History:** A number of years ago, HC did preliminary work on having a project to sell T-shirts for the purposes of a) raising funds and b) promoting Kingston as a destination spot for a wide variety of recreational sport-type activities. The T-shirts were to feature pictographs of many of the sport/recreational activities (swimming, skiing, etc.) that one can do in Kingston and, of course, would include the name of the town/state
- **Discussion** included:
 - option of sharing (or giving) the idea with/to other groups in town such as the Recreation Commission, Kingston Days Committee, etc. and if shared, which group/groups would the profit go to

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- point of interest: there are ways to avoid having an inventory of shirts of the less popular sizes, etc. An example is that rather than have an inventory of physical shirts, use a process where the buyer purchases the item remotely from the vendor and then the vendor sends the promoter a small profit from the sale
- **Action:** Mr. Landry will approach other committees to gauge their interest in the project

Next Meeting: scheduled for September 28, 2023 at the Kingston Community Library

Meeting Adjourned: at 7:35 p.m. 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