

**HERITAGE COMMISSION  
TOWN OF KINGSTON, NH  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
Kingston Community Library  
October 26, 2023, 6:30pm**

**Members Present:**

Ernest Landry, Chairman  
Robert Bean, Vice-Chairman  
Glenn Coppelman, Selectman's Representative  
Susan Prescott, Historic District Commission's Representative  
Eileen Clifford, Member

**Members absent:**

Charlotte Boutin, Member

**Also Present:**

Susan Ayer, Administrative Assistant to the Selectmen  
Walt Roy

**Call to order:** Ernie Landry called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**Historic District Commission Update:** None

**Acceptance of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Mr. Bean and seconded by Mr. Coppelman to accept the September 28, 2023 minutes. Eileen Clifford suggested an amendment to the motion to correct the words "state fiscal year" on the third and fourth pages to "federal fiscal year". Bob Bean made the motion to approve amended minutes from the September 28th, 2023 meeting. Eileen Clifford second. All in favor. Unanimous.

**Updates: Grace Daley Barn Rehabilitation Project**

**Status/Action-Plan 2023:** The Commission is working with the Department of Public Works (DPW) to restore the Grace Daley Barn. The DPW expects to finish some demolition of the barn in the coming weeks. Currently, they have the materials to lift the barn but await the arrival of beams.

The barn currently has an asphalt roof, but the Department of Public Works is considering a metal roof for the new barn. Ernie Landry and Phil Combs, DPW Director plan to meet with the HDC in November regarding a metal roof. All work, except for the roof, is scheduled to be done before the end of the 2023 year.

All objects that belong in the Grace Daley Barn are safely stored in a storage container at the barn.

**Updates: Plains Cemetery - Celebration and Rehabilitation Work**

**Status/Action-Plan:**

The Heritage Commission is leading the project of rehabilitating the Plains Cemetery for the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary ceremony. About twenty volunteers will learn how to clean and reset grave stones. John Lord, from the NH Old Graveyard Association, will be leading the training. A Steering Committee was formed to lead rehabilitation and the celebration. Members of the Steering Committee include: Virginia Morse - of the Historic District Commission, Brad Maxwell -

Chairperson of the Trustees of the Trust Funds, Melissa Mannon - Library Director, Jef Flanders-McDougall - of the Historical Museum Committee, Phil Coombs - DPW Director, and Ernie Landry - Chairman of the Heritage Commission.

They are also thinking about leading cemetery tours and or creating an exhibit for the library. While cleaning stones, they will be collecting information to put in the online database.

A motion was made by Glenn Coppelman to purchase no more than \$300 in reference publications regarding gravestone rehabilitation, iconography, etc. Seconded by Bob Bean. All in favor. Unanimous.

Glenn Coppelman left the meeting at 6:50

#### **Updates: Letters to Owners of Historic Homes**

##### **Status/Action-Plan:**

There are about 150 owners of historic houses. The commission is in the process of sending letters to every homeowner disclosing the relevance of keeping up with maintenance in a historic house. They are updating the database to show who currently owns the house.

#### **Updates: Valley Lane Town Forest Archaeology**

##### **Status/Action-Plan:**

The Heritage Commission is working to locate, map, and study archeological foundations at the valley Lane town forest. They will create documentation to send to the Division of Historical Resources in Concord. The project will begin in November with initial research happening in the winter. This will be the second study done on town forests.

#### **Updates: Documentation**

##### **Status/Action-Plan:**

The commission is looking to create documentation of the Christie House on Church Street and the Furlong House on Chase Street.

#### **Updates Volunteer Day:**

##### **Status/Action-Plan:**

Various committees/commissions received a few more volunteers. The event was publicized at the library, town museum, and on social media. The commission might try and publicize volunteer opportunities at the high school.

#### **Public Comment:**

N/A

#### **New Business: Certified Local Government - Annual Report, Quadrennial Meeting**

##### **Status/Action-Plan:**

The Division of Historical Resources certified Kingston as a Certified Local Government in 2014. Only about 30 towns in NH hold the title. This makes Kingston eligible for more types of grants. Brandee Loughlin coordinates the CLG program.

The Heritage Commission will host Ms. Loughlin and the Historic District Commission for a Quadrennial meeting during the Heritage Commissions March meeting to speak about being a Certified Local Government.

#### **New Business: Bandstand Bunting**

##### **Status/Action-Plan:**

DPW will be putting up bunting on the Bandstand. The current bunting is faded. The town will purchase new bunting under a new section in the budget labeled *Patriotic Purposes*.

**Other Business:**

The Hearse House stands on Bill Bartlett's land. The Hearse House has been a keystone to the Plains Cemetery. The town is working on finding a solution so that the town can continue to repair/use the Hearse House.

**BOS/Other Town Organization Updates:**

N/A

**Next Meeting:** December 7th, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at TBD.

**End meeting:** adjourned at 7:22 pm.

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.