

Town of Kingston Heritage Commission  
Public Meeting  
April 25, 2019 Minutes

1. **Call to order:** Chairwoman Debra Powers called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Morse Room of the Kingston Community Library

**Attendance** (quorum satisfied):

<b>Members:</b>	Debra Powers, Chair - present
	Ernie Landry, Vice-Chair – present
	Robert Bean - present
	Holly Ouellette - present
	Susan Prescott, Representative from HDC- excused
	Gail Ramsey - present
	Richard Wilson, Representative from BOS - present
	Charlotte Boutin, Alternate - present
	Jane Christie, Alternate - present
	Eileen Clifford, Alternate - present
	Elaine VanDyke, Alternate - absent
<b>Guests:</b>	Walt Roy
	Steven DeLong
<b>Open position:</b>	Alternate member

2. **Election of Officers:** Existing officers were re-elected. Motion made by Bob; seconded by Holly
3. **Minutes from** the March 28, 2019 Meeting were accepted as amended. Motion made by Bob; seconded by Gail. The amendments were: under attendance, Walt Roy attended as a guest (vs. as a member); remove Debby Power’s name as attending the meeting on the Heritage Commission Brochure Meeting March 07, 2019; in the discussion on Recreation Property, replace the word “Indians” with “Native Americans”; under Fundraiser, clarify that there will be 5 “drawings” – each for \$100; and under 325<sup>th</sup> Events sponsored by the Heritage Commission, include our third event – which is scheduled for Sunday, August 04, 2019
4. **Bandstand Concerts:** Guest Steven DeLong, a member of the “Greenfields Band” based in Brentwood, informed us of local resources which could be helpful for anyone looking to engage musicians/bands for concerts in the restored Bandstand on the Plains. Those resources are: TEAM (Town Exeter Arts Music) and Arts Industry Alliance (also based in Exeter but with a broader base of artists). The “Greenfields Band” itself is available for hire at a reasonable rate

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**5. 325<sup>th</sup> HC events being sponsored by HC:**

- The times of the musical theater presentation on the life of Kingston's extraordinary man Josiah Bartlett, have been narrowed down to late morning on Saturday, July 27 and early afternoon on Sunday, August 4. Reminder: we have the Town Hall stage (reserved for the presentations (and more) by Lesley Hume)
- Program on NH Cemeteries and Gravestones, a New Hampshire Humanities Event scheduled for June 8 at 1:00 – to be followed by refreshments and conversation: discussion topics included where to have refreshments. Options include Town Hall (which Ernie has already reserved), the Church on the Plains (which will be open), etc.

We plan to ask the 325<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee for \$150 towards snacks (i.e. packaged snacks that can be saved for use at another time if need be, and drinks); we already have table cloths, etc. Gail and Holly volunteered to help w/set-up.

Ernie will contact the president of the Friends of the Church on the Plains

**6.A New Sign for Historical Museum:** Walt continues to work on the project for the new sign which would replace the “tired” sign in front of Nichols Memorial Library building, home of the Kingston Historical Museum. Walt reported that his research showed that using granite posts for the sign was not feasible due to concerns with the height and diameter that would be required, strength (granite is brittle), availability, and cost. The plan is to go to the Board of Selectmen with updated proposals on Monday, April 29. Debby will inform both the Historical District Commission and the Historical Museum Committee.

The question arose as to which/whose budget the funds for the sign would come out of

**6.B Town Brochure:** no activity at this time

**7. Recreation property Phase 1A results:** History: the town has been considering putting basketball courts, etc. on part of the town owned property commonly referred to as the Rec Center property. Issues surfaced with regard to the historic significance of the property.

The HC went before the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and received the okay to proceed with a very preliminary archaeological study of the area - i.e. Phase 1A. Reminder: monies from the Heritage Fund can only be spent if approved by both the BOS and the HC. In order that Phase 1A begin as soon as possible, Debby requested an Email vote (prior to this meeting) to ask whether members approved spending up to the \$2,000 (amount agreed to by BOS) of the Heritage Fund. Five members responded by voting "Yes". At this 04/25 meeting, members were asked to reaffirm their vote, resulting in a majority of 4 “yes” votes with 3 “abstaining”. FYI: the proposal/invoice came in at \$500.

Phase 1A has been completed by Robert G. Goodby, Ph.D. of Monadnock Archaeological Consulting, LLC. Debby Powers, Ernie Landry, and Mark Heitz attended. Dr Goodby produced a Confidential (Not for Public Distribution) report of his findings - dated 04/21/2019.

Our discussion continued on to possible next steps with regard to the current status of the site (i.e. the field of tree stumps), the long term plans for the site, having more tests performed, etc. The HC will go to the next Board of Selectmen meeting to encourage further testing of the site

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**8. Documentation:**

- Town of Kingston History Book: Bob explained that the Town's goal is to update the history book every 25 years. The project is about 55% complete. Scope creep has been an issue. While the book will not likely be completed for the "325<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Days", it is hoped that we can take orders at that time.
- Video tour – as spring unfolds, the team of Bob and Walt will return to videoing the Town

**9. Fundraiser** – reminder: we are selling 100 tickets @ \$10 per ticket with the goal of adding \$500 to the Heritage Fund, "drawings" are June 16 thru June 20.

Several members each took one sleeve of 7 more tickets to "sell" - leaving us with only 13 tickets which have not yet been officially assigned to someone. Some HC members/representatives turned in ticket stubs and \$ at the meeting; other members said they had "sold" tickets but did not have ticket stubs and \$ with them. Eileen will update total \$ collected and send us an update on what tickets numbers are still available and who has them

We decided that it would be improper to "sell" the raffle tickets at the June 8<sup>th</sup> NH Humanities Program on NH Cemeteries & Gravestones.

**10. Envision Kingston Subcommittee:** the meeting date has been changed to the first Wednesdays of the month to better accommodate schedules. Glenn Greenwood, Town Planner, is taking an active role in heading up the project to prepare material that can be used to help members of the public, the Board of Selectmen, and potential applicants with regard to NH RSA 79-E Community revitalization Tax Relief Incentive

**11. Updates from other Town Commissions/Boards:**

- Ernie Landry mentioned that the Conservation Commission Trails Sub-committee will be offering hikes (in the fall) targeted at properties with historical features

**12. Next Activities:** we reviewed the HC 2019 Event and Deadline Calendar. Next meeting remains as scheduled: May 23, 2019 at 7:00 at the Kingston Community Library. Gail volunteered to take the minutes

**13. Meeting adjourned** at 9:07. Motion made by Ernie and seconded at the same time by both Gail and Bob

**Minutes Prepared by:** Eileen Clifford