

Stratham Heritage Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2017

7:00 pm

Land Use Conference Room

Present: Rebecca Mitchell, Nathan Merrill, Wally Stuart, David Canada, Tammy Hathaway, Florence Wiggin, Terry Barnes (Paul Deschaine @ 8:20)

Convened: 7:00 pm by Rebecca Mitchell

Minutes: January 11, 2017 minutes were approved (Mr. Stuart, Mr. Merrill, unanimous)

OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report: At a Budget Committee meeting in January Mr. Stuart presented the Heritage Commission's proposed 2017 budget while at the same meeting Mr. Merrill addressed the CIP funds for the Heritage Preservation Fund and the Planning Office special project funds for the Portsmouth Avenue corridor Area Survey. It was noted that the budget for 2016 had been used completely.

Bartlett-Cushman House: Ms. Mitchell noted that she will meet with Colin Laverty regarding the shutter installation and hardware. In a discussion of the barn windows and storm sashes for the bay windows there was general agreement to stay within the proposed budget. Given the poor condition of the barn windows Ms. Mitchell suggested that Brosco replacements might be acceptable while Mr. Merrill added that salvaged period windows might be an option. Mr. Canada said that he would explore local fabricators for the bay window storms.

Planning Board and Technical Review Committee: It was noted that the Planning Board voted unanimously to deny the proposed Verizon cell tower at 57 Portsmouth Ave. Mr. Canada reported that Mark Stevens has proposed two options for a cell tower at Pipers Landing and behind the CVS on West Rd. to be installed by Varsity Communications.

Mr. Merrill reported that the TRC had met and is working on a new vision for the Portsmouth Ave roadway using as a model the design standards developed for Rt. 101 in Bedford. The goal is to create a design for Route 108 in the Gateway corridor that would prescribe any future NH DOT work in the area.

Old Town Hall: Ms. Mitchell reported that the property owner is currently unwilling to sign the consent letter from the NH Department of Historical Resources allowing the nomination to go forward to the State Historical Resources Council for a listing on the State Register of Historic Places.

Chase's Tavern: The preparation of the National Register nomination is in the 2017 operating budget and waiting for approval at the annual town meeting.

Scamman Barn: Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Merrill met with Doug, Stella and Kirk Scamman to tour the early, smaller English-style barn on the property. Various future uses of the barn are being considered with the goal of repairing and renovating the barn as a structure contributing to the farm's economic viability. Ms. Mitchell will work with the family to complete the application for a Historic Barn Assessment Grant from the NH Preservation Alliance. The deadline for the application is May 1.

Lane Homestead: Ms. Mitchell delivered the LCHIP & National Register plaques to the new owners. They reported that they had discussed with Colin Laverty the possibility of mounting the LCHIP plaque on a large stone in an area next to the barn that the owners wish to develop into an attractive rest and picnic area. The National Register plaque will likely be placed on the front façade of the Jabez Lane House. The owners reported that customers at the Collector's Eye express considerable interest in learning more about the property and offered to sell copies of the Lane book for the Commission. Ms. Mitchell noted that she would prepare for them a one-page handout on the history of the Lane Homestead.

February Program: Mr. Stuart has made flyers and distributed them along with sending out the press release to a wide range of media outlets and community calendars. Mr. Canada had sent out the press release as a Board of Selectmen email notification and will add the program to the upcoming Selectmen's Newsletter. Mr. Stuart has inspected the projector available from the library and will work with Ms. Mitchell to check compatibility with her laptop. Mr. Merrill will put together a Power Point slide show using Ron Deane's photos of his Kenniston Tavern renovation and images that Ms.

Mitchell has selected for her remarks. The commission will meet at the fire station at 4pm on Friday, Feb. 17 to set up for the program. In the event of bad weather the program will be postponed to Friday, Feb. 24.

Veterans' Garden: Ms. Mitchell read a letter from a Vietnam veteran that had been referred to the commission. The letter requests that his engraved brick be removed until the POW/MIA flag is located in the Veteran's Garden. After a discussion it was decided that Ms. Mitchell will send a letter to the veteran, with a copy to Peter Wiggin, stating that they may remove the brick, replacing it with a blank brick. Ms. Mitchell noted that there is a \$1000.00 donation in the Heritage Fund that could possibly be allocated towards a second flagpole.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Town Meeting: Voting will be on Tuesday, March 14 and Town Meeting on Friday, March 17. The Heritage Commission is presenting no warrant articles.

Spring Planning Conference: Ms. Mitchell announced that the NH Preservation Alliance will hold its biennial day-long preservation conference on Friday, April 21. Commission members urged to attend.

Next Meeting: March 8, 2017 at 7:00 pm

Adjourned: 8:40 PM (Canada, Barnes, unanimous).

Respectfully submitted,
Tammy Hathaway
Rebecca Mitchell