

**Stratham Heritage Commission
Stratham Municipal Center – Hutton Room
Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2020**

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

Present: Nathan Merrill, Michael Houghton, David Canada, Rebecca Mitchell, Forrest Barker, Tammy Hathaway

Absent: Florence Wiggin

Convened: 7:02 PM

Chairman Merrill welcomed members and asked Ms. Barker to take a voting position.

Secretary's Report: Mr. Merrill distributed the minutes of the October 14, 2020 meeting. Mr. Canada moved to accept the minutes; Ms. Mitchell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Barker had nothing new to report

Committee Reports

Planning Board: Mr. Canada reported that at the last meeting an outreach flyer on proposed zoning changes in the Gateway district was approved for distribution to the voting public. Another proposed zoning change approved by the Board is to clarify the Demolition Review ordinance: if a property is sold with an approved demo permit, the existing permit would automatically expire, and the new owner would have to submit a new demo application. The public hearing for this change will be Nov. 18th at 7:00 pm. The Board is finished working on the Route 33 Legacy Highway zoning language, and documents have been created for a warrant article to be presented at Town Meeting.

Technical Review Committee: No meeting

Demolition Review Committee: No meeting

Select Board: Mr. Houghton reported that the Nov 3 election at the Stratham Memorial School was a success due in large measure to the extra support provided by staff and volunteers. The Board is working on the 2021 budget process and finishing up with the waste handling contract, he noted that the waste containers will be provided by the contractor rather than being paid out of the town budget. Mr. Houghton emphasized that Shanti Wolph has done a great job on creating a safe operating environment at the town office. With the resignation of town planner Tavis Austin, the Board held two interviews for the position in the past week and they feel optimistic that we will have several strong candidates from which to choose.

Old Business

Budget: Mr. Merrill reported that he has submitted the 2021 budget request that was approved at our last meeting to Town Administrator David Moore and so far has not heard anything further.

Historic Register Nominations:

Old Town Hall: Ms. Mitchell reported that Lisa Mausolf will update the State Register nomination application for \$100.00. Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Merrill prepared a list of changes to the building that have occurred since the initial state register nomination was submitted under the prior ownership. Current owner Mark Perlowski reviewed the list and verified its accuracy. Ms. Mausolf will incorporate this information into the new application.

River Road: Ms. Mitchell reported that Lynne Monroe of The Preservation Company has provided an estimate of \$7,927.50 to prepare a State Register nomination form and a determination of eligibility for the National Register. This would include a complete description and inventory with interior and exterior archival-quality photographs. Mr. Merrill noted the historic significance of this small farm and the integrity of the buildings, land and ownership history of the Scammon family. A discussion of the property ensued including noting that River Road is a historic street in town and that there is a nearby historic town-owned cemetery with many Scammon grave markers. Ms. Mitchell made a motion to seek a quote from The Preservation Company to not exceed \$4,500.00 for a photographic inventory to be completed by December 31, 2020, and to indicate that we hope to complete the full nomination application next year, pending approval of our 2021 budget. Ms. Barker seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Town Wide Survey: Ms. Mitchell reported that the final product is due at the end of June 2021 and this is a good time of year with leaves off the trees and no snow to complete photographs. She will contact Lisa Mausolf and send a memo to David Moore.

79-D barn easements: Mr. Merrill noted that the barn easement at 65 Squamscott Road owned by Florence Wiggin expired last year. Ms. Hathaway will look into submitting an application with Ms. Wiggin.

Town Historic Marker Program: Ms. Mitchell reported that she has begun assembling images for an initial marker in the series to be funded through the Varsity Wireless - mitigation funds.

Highway (State) Marker project: Ms. Mitchell is working on her response to the Department of Historical Resource's questions on her proposed draft for the Lane Homestead marker.

Membership: After a discussion of the current status of Commission membership, Ms. Mitchell suggested contacting Mr. Drew Bedard and Mr. Merrill agreed. Mr. Houghton

will follow up with David Moore and the rest of the Select Board to renominate Mr. Merrill and Ms. Barker to voting seats.

New Business

Veterans Memorial Garden: Ms. Mitchell reported that Exeter Monument Works has engraved the blank obelisk with “Persian Gulf War” and will mail the invoice. A discussion ensued on keeping a watchful eye on the garden for personal tributes as it is a community memorial space, unlike cemetery plots which are owned by families. Mr. Houghton will raise this issue with the Select Board as well. Mr. Merrill presented Ms. Mitchell with a new brick application and she noted it has been over a year since the last application.

February Program: Mr. Merrill noted that there are currently three past programs that are on our web page, and discussion ensued about identifying the missing ones and getting them up online prior to February. Ms. Barker will contact library director Leslie Kimball to inquire about uploading missing programs from DVDs held at the library to our web page. Ms. Mitchell will write an article for the Stratham Magazine February edition to identify the links for local history on the Town website and at Wiggin Memorial Library.

Website updates: Mr. Merrill would like to highlight more of the historic resources in town including State and National register properties. Mr. Merrill noted that the information on RSA 79-E eligibility form needs to be updated on the website and asked Mr. Houghton if he would ask Mr. Moore to review and update appropriately.

NH Preservation Alliance: Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Merrill discussed the upcoming New Hampshire Preservation Alliance Zoom programs that are open to the public titled “Getting Started with Preservation Projects” and “Effective Strategies for Community Preservation Projects.” Ms. Mitchell noted that she will be a panel member at both. The NHPA newsletter also features “Tips for Making Your Community More Vibrant and Accessible” based on the book “Communities and Consequences II.” Mr. Merrill will forward the link to members.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tammy Hathaway
Secretary