

**Stratham Heritage Commission
Meeting Minutes
Land Use Conference Room
February 13, 2019**

Present: Nathan Merrill, Mike Houghton, Tammy Hathaway, Forrest Barker

Absent: David Canada, Rebecca Mitchell, Florence Wiggin

Convened: 7:06 PM by Nathan Merrill for Chairman Canada.
Mr. Merrill declared Ms. Barker and Ms. Hathaway voting members.

Secretary's Report: Mr. Houghton made a motion to approve the January 9, 2019 minutes as presented. (Mr. Houghton, Ms. Hathaway, unanimous in favor).

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Barker reported that the 2018-year end balances:

- Heritage Fund \$6,524.71.
- Operating Budget \$303.71 unspent.
- Heritage Preservation Fund \$81,637.00

Committee Reports

Planning Board: Mr. Houghton reported on a presentation by an applicant from 217 Portsmouth Ave (this is the Samuel Lane, Jr. homestead) for development of a cottage colony. It would consist of five 800 square foot cottages for guests to rent and experience life in a rural setting. This is a challenging application on a small site. It was noted that in addition to the Planning Board approval with numerous conditions attached, the proposal will also have to go to the ZBA, and the septic systems will have to be approved by NHDES. Mr. Houghton also discussed the Robinwood Center application at 61 Stratham Heights Road for a 40-space parking lot. Abutters are concerned about noise, lights, and traffic, particularly when/if large functions are held.

Technical Review Committee: No report.

Demolition Review Committee: Mr. Merrill reported that an application for demolition at 92 Winnicutt Road had been submitted and the committee they will meet at the property on February 15 at 9am.

Master Plan Steering Committee: Ms. Barker noted from recent meetings that there will be a condensed master plan with multiple sections. Mr. Merrill reported that work is beginning on a community survey and a second community forum to be held in April.

Old Business

Bartlett-Cushman House: Mr. Houghton reported that a purchase and sales is signed and the next step is setting a closing date.

February program: Mr. Merrill reported that the program was well attended with standing room only. Estimated attendance was 80, although a number of folks left when they saw no chairs were available. Mr. Merrill asked Mr. Houghton if more chairs could be purchased and Mr. Houghton said he will inquire.

Budget: Mr. Merrill noted that the Budget Advisory Committee and Select Board endorsed our 2019 operating budget proposal, along with our \$50,000.00 request for the Heritage Preservation Fund in the CIP. Mr. Houghton reported that there were no major problems at the Select Board's public hearing on the Town Meeting warrant articles.

New Business

249 Portsmouth Ave. Cornet Wiggin House: Concern has been expressed about deteriorating condition of the buildings on this National Register-listed property. The barn is collapsing and there is concern about the condition of the house as well. Mr. Houghton noted that one approach is to gather all resources available for maintaining and preserving these historic homes in a catalog and give to home owners, using the list of historic property owners and addresses compiled by Ms. Barker recently. It was agreed that the topic would be continued at our next meeting when Mr. Canada and Ms. Mitchell return.

NH Preservation Alliance Membership renewal: Ms. Hathaway made a motion that we renew the yearly dues of \$50.00 to maintain our membership to the organization. (Ms. Hathaway, Mr. Houghton, unanimous in favor). Ms. Barker will take the paperwork to Val Kemp for mailing off with a check, to be drawn from the administrative line item in our budget.

Congratulations to member Forrest Barker: Mr. Merrill formally recognized Ms. Barker for being elected to the Rockingham/Strafford County Farm Service Agency County Committee; and furthermore for her selection to serve on the Robinwood Board of Directors.

Next Meeting: March 13, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Land Use Conference Room.

Adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Tammy Hathaway
Secretary