

Stratham Heritage Commission
Stratham Municipal Center – Hutton Room
Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2022

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

Absent: None

Convened: Chair Nathan Merrill convened the meeting at 7:04 pm

Secretary's Report: Mr. Merrill distributed the minutes of the February 09, 2022 meeting. Ms. Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Canada seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Barker will present the first quarterly report at the next meeting.

Committee Reports

Planning Board: Mr. Houghton reported that no new applications have come in. The board is waiting on the next steps for the proposed Stoney Brook Lane development. There is an upcoming preliminary consultation regarding the former Vo-Tech College site. Mr. Merrill noted that the Route 33 Legacy Highway Heritage Distract article passed at town voting day, and thanked Mr. Canada, Mr. Houghton and all of the planning board for their support on this project. Ms. Mitchell noted that Mark Connors did a nice job on the research and photographs for the presentations and was responsive to any input given. Mr. Merrill also thanked Ms. Barker for chairing the Route 33 Ad Hoc Committee. It was also noted that this is the first Heritage District to be established in the state of NH.

Demolition Review Committee: Has not met.

Select Board: Mr. Houghton had nothing new to report that was relevant to the heritage commission. He noted that Joe Lovejoy attended his final select board meeting and newly elected to the selectboard is Joe Anderson who has been on the planning board for the past two years.

Correspondence: None

Old Business

Historic register nominations:

River Road: Mr. Merrill reported that Preservation Company has completed the National Register inventory forms and photographs for the River Road project. They will submit copies to the NHDHR for determination of eligibility. Mr. Merrill suggested that a hard copy of the

report be printed, and a digital copy be archived on the website. Ms. Mitchell thought it would be a good idea to also print copies for the Historical Society and for the property owners.

200 Portsmouth Ave: Ms. Mitchell will be meeting with Andrew Cushing next week to begin the inventory work on her property for the State Register nomination.

Town-Wide Area Form: Ms. Mitchell reported that Lisa Mausolf will have a preliminary report ready to review this week and inquired about the possibility of a partial payment prior to completion of the final draft. A discussion ensued regarding an extension of the contract and a partial payment for the work she has done. Ms. Mitchell noted that there was no advance paid, so to date she has done the bulk of the work without any compensation. **Mr. Houghton moved to amend the contract with Lisa Mausolf to include a partial payment upon receipt of the first draft by 3/31/2022, with an extended deadline for the final draft and final payment to be determined. Ms. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.**

Town Marker Project: Ms. Mitchell reported that she had three invoices from Sydney Barrington, the UNH intern she is working with on the project totaling \$1,267.00 which she will submit to Ms. Barker. Mr. Houghton suggested that a meeting be arranged of all the committees associated with Stratham Hill Park and Gordon Barker Town Forest to enhance communication and cohesiveness of new signage that will be installed.

State Marker Project: No updates.

Preservation Easement Stewardship: Mr. Merrill and Building Inspector / Code Enforcement Officer Jim Marchese met with Mark Perlowski, owner of the Old Town Hall, to tour the property and complete the annual preservation easement monitoring report. Mr. Merrill distributed the report and explained that overall, he and Jim were very pleased with how everything looked. There is some minor water infiltration damage on the north side of the foundation that will be repaired this spring. **Mr. Canada moved to approve the Stratham Heritage Commission Preservation Easement Annual Monitoring Report for Old Town Hall. Ms. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.** A copy of the report will be kept in Town office files, and is also attached to these minutes.

Demolition review ordinance: Mr. Houghton shared correspondence with Jim Marchese regarding potential penalties for violators of the demolition review ordinance. He will review with the Select Board and Planning Board as well for feedback. The penalties are set by state statute, but can be imposed administratively by the Select Board without a Town Meeting vote.

Historic Barns and RSA 79-D: Mr. Merrill noted a new 79-D barn easement application has been submitted from the new owners of White Gate Farm at 35 Frying Pan Lane. Jenn Gunn at 173 Winnicutt Road received a Preservation Alliance barn assessment grant to help evaluate and prioritize the work needed on her barn. Ms. Gunn reported to Mr. Merrill that she is very pleased with the report provided, and she is struggling to find a contractor with room in his schedule to make the necessary repairs. Mr. Merrill will try to assist her. Ms. Gunn also plans to apply for a 79-D easement this spring. Lastly, Mr. Merrill distributed copies of planned barn improvements from Alex Dardinski at 3 Chase Lane. He would like to apply for the RSA 79-D as long as the

commission didn't see any problems with his proposed improvements. After reviewing the plans and a discussion all agreed that there were no red flags, and that we would be pleased to see significant investment in this historic barn that is in need of numerous repairs.

Photo Archives: Mr. Merrill and Ms. Mitchell will be meeting with Town Administrator David Moore to discuss how to best organize the photos and make them accessible on the town website. Mr. Canada also raised the issue of long-term storage / archiving of meeting minutes and other paper documents. Mr. Merrill agreed to include this issue in the meeting with Mr. Moore.

New Business

A potential thank you gift from the town for Flossy Wiggin's many years of dedicated service to the community was discussed. A long term goal of Floss has been to get the old (back) part of her house dated, and to pursue listing her farm on the historic register. Mr. Merrill explained that the back part of her house is potentially the oldest surviving structure in the town of Stratham, and knowing whether or not this is true would be valuable information, and would also add strength to a future register eligibility determination. Ms. Mitchell reached out to a dendrochronology expert from Vermont, and he would be willing to come take samples if a preliminary review of the attic and basement framing indicated that sampling the wood of the timbers for lab analysis would be both feasible and informative. Ms. Mitchell suggested reaching out to Steven Mallory, an experienced architectural historian from Kensington, to see if he would be willing to come do the initial evaluation of the framing at modest cost. All agreed to proceed with contacting Mr. Mallory.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Hathaway, secretary