

Stratham Heritage Commission
Stratham Municipal Center – Hutton Room
Meeting Minutes
April 13, 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 7:00 pm

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

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Barker presented the first quarterly report for 2022 with the following balances: Heritage Fund \$6,960, operating budget \$5,635, Varsity Wireless mitigation fund \$8,564 and the Heritage Preservation capital reserve fund \$176,675.

Committee Reports

Planning Board: Mr. Canada had nothing pertinent to the Heritage commission to report except for their discussion of the formation of the Rte. 33 heritage district advisory committee.

Demolition Review Committee: Has not met.

Select Board: Mr. Houghton reported on the deliberation regarding naming some of the town's properties and rooms. The Fire association and the Stratham fair commission have made the decision to not go forward with the annual Stratham fair this year. The county 4H is developing a one-day program for 4H youth to be held at the park on a Saturday, with date to be determined.

Correspondence: None

Old Business

Historic register nominations:

River Road: Mr. Merrill reported that the Preservation Company has completed the National Register inventory and submitted to the NHDHR for determination of eligibility. Mr. Merrill has given hard copies of the report to the Historical Society and the property owners.

200 Portsmouth Ave: Ms. Mitchell is making progress researching the history of her property and reporting to Andrew Cushing. She hopes to have the inventory work ready for the State Register nomination by the end of the year.

Town-Wide Area Form: Mr. Merrill noted that he and Ms. Mitchell are reviewing the preliminary report from Lisa Mausolf and has shared it with Mr. Fred Emanuel to review as well. He will send a copy upon request to commission members to review.

Town Marker Project: No updates.

State Marker Project: No updates.

Historic Barns and RSA 79-D: Mr. Merrill reported that three 79-D barn easement applications have been submitted for a vote at a Select Board meeting in May. The three applications include the White Gate Farm at 35 Frying Pan Lane, Jenn Gunn at 173 Winnicutt Road and Alex Dardinski 3 Chase Lane. **Ms. Mitchell moved that the Heritage Commission support the three applications for the Select Board review and vote. Mr. Hyland seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously, with Mr. Houghton abstaining.**

Photo Archives: Mr. Merrill met with Town Administrator David Moore and Town Planner Mark Connors to discuss archiving of photos and documents on the town website. The topic of archiving meeting minutes and agendas was discussed. Mr. Moore and Mr. Connors will be reaching out to North Hampton officials to get their feedback on the program they are using. They also plan to consult with Wiggin Memorial Library Director Lesley Kimbel for additional ideas and suggestions.

Stratham Farms Research update: Mr. Merrill shared some interesting facts on historic town farms that he discovered while researching his family farm in the Town Clerk's vault.

New Business

66 Squamscott Road: Ms. Mitchell reported that Steven Mallory, an experienced architectural historian from Kensington, visited the property and toured the attic, basement, and the back of the house. She is waiting for him to write a report to see if future dendrochronology samples of the wood of the timbers for lab analysis would be feasible and informative or not.

Stratham Hill Park signage meeting: Mr. Merrill reported that town staff is organizing a meeting of the various groups and committees associated with Stratham Hill Park to discuss signage. They are looking for two representatives from each of the following groups to participate: Stratham Hill Park Association, Conservation Commission, Heritage Commission, and Trail Management Advisory Committee. Mr. Merrill will attend the first meeting on April 13, at 3pm and invited Mr. Hyland to join him given his professional experience as a landscape architect who works with a lot of municipalities. Mr. Hyland agreed to participate.

Route 33 advisory committee appointees: Mr. Merrill opened a discussion on the Heritage District Advisory committee. He explained that the committee will include three people, one each from the Heritage Commission, Planning Board, and Select Board. Mr. Merrill asked if Mr. Hyland might be interested as a former Planning Board and Technical Review Committee member with valuable experience in this type of role. Mr. Houghton noted that the appointee would be working with Town Planner Mark Connors on an as need basis and the position would

not demand a lot of time. Mr. Hyland agreed to serve. **Mr. Canada moved to nominate Mr. Hyland to serve on the Route 33 Heritage District Advisory Committee. Ms. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously, with Mr. Houghton abstaining from the vote.**

Review of Master Plan: Mr. Merrill reviewed the Commission's goals pertaining to the Town's 2019 Master Plan that have been accomplished. He stated how pleased he is of the Commission's work. Ms. Mitchell noted how useful a current Master Plan is to keep goals on track and communicate with other boards and committees.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Hathaway, secretary