

**Stratham Heritage Commission
Stratham Municipal Center – Hutton Room
Meeting Minutes
May, 11 2022**

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

Absent: Jeffrey Hyland

Convened: Chair Nathan Merrill convened the meeting at 7:00 pm

Secretary's Report: Mr. Merrill distributed the minutes of the April, 13, 2022 meeting. Mr. Canada made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Mitchell seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: No report

Committee Reports

Planning Board: Mr. Canada reported that a developer representing the owners of the former NH Technical Community College presented a preliminary plan to retain the existing building for multi-purpose use and to construct 138 town houses on the surrounding land.

Demolition Review Committee: Mr. Merrill noted that a meeting is scheduled for 9am on 5/12/22 at 18 Stratham Heights Road to review a 1950's ranch that is adding a second story.

Select Board: Mr. Houghton reported that the Select Board appointed Alex Dardinski to the Route 33 Heritage District Advisory Committee.

Correspondence: Mr. Merrill shared an email received from Town Administrator David Moore updating the easement stewardship at 132 Portsmouth Ave. The property owners and the NH Preservation Alliance have agreed on a list of priorities to work on.

Mr. Merrill reported that on May 18, 2022 from 1-4 pm at the Wiggin Memorial Library there will be a NH Listens Facilitator Training workshop open to all town board and commission members to attend.

Old Business

Historic register nominations:

River Road: Mr. Merrill had nothing new to report.

200 Portsmouth Ave: Ms. Mitchell noted the project is still on track to finish this fall.

Town-Wide Area Form: Mr. Merrill noted that Mr. Canada has finished reading the report and has given him his comments which he will combine with his own notes. Ms. Mitchell, Ms. Barker, Mr. Hyland and volunteer Fred Emanuel are also reviewing the draft document. Mr. Merrill hopes to get all of the feedback consolidated and presented to Lisa Mausolf by the end of the month.

Town Marker Project: Ms. Mitchell reported that she is making progress working with Sydney Barrington on Stratham Hill Park research. She hopes to have text and selected images ready to preview this summer.

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 public hearing on May 16th. The three applications include the White Gate Farm at 35 Frying Pan Lane, Jenn Gunn at 173 Winnicutt Road, and Alex Dardinski at 3 Chase Lane.

66 Squamscott Road: Ms. Mitchell reported that she is waiting for a report from Steven Mallory.

Stratham Hill Park signage meeting: Mr. Merrill reported that town staff organized a meeting to discuss signage needs at Stratham Hill Park. Attendees included Town Administrator David Moore, Town Planner Mark Connors, Parks & Rec director Seth Hickey, Selectwoman Allison Knab, and volunteer representatives of the Conservation Commission, Heritage Commission, Recreation Commission, Trails Committee, and Stratham Hill Park Association. Mr. Merrill reported that general consensus was that while signage is needed, everyone is also cognizant of wanting to keep natural areas unburdened from excessive signage. Relative to our planned historical markers, the group appeared to support our objectives and proposed locations. Other goals include improving consistency in signage, improving trail/wayfinding markers, and making sure that kiosks are located in areas that are most effective. The group will meet again on an as needed basis.

Veterans' Memorial Garden: Ms. Mitchell reported that she has two applications to process and in a discussion with Town Administrator David Moore, he suggested it would be a good idea to establish and write the process for new applications and the deadlines for Memorial Day and Veterans' Day.

New Business

Naming of town facilities public hearing: Mr. Merrill noted that on May 16, 2022 at the Select Board meeting there will be a public hearing regarding naming Meeting Room A at the Municipal Center in honor of longtime Stratham Memorial School food service director Joan Sewall, and naming the livestock barns at Stratham Hill Park in honor of James and Lorraine Stuart.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Hathaway, secretary