

**Stratham Heritage Commission
Stratham Municipal Center – Hutton Room
Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2021**

Present: David Canada, Michael Houghton, Rebecca Mitchell, Tammy Hathaway, Florence Wiggin, Jeff Hyland, Forrest Barker (arrived at 7:08)

Absent: Nathan Merrill

Convened: Mr. Canada sitting in for Mr. Merrill, convened the meeting at 7:00 asking Ms. Hathaway & Mr. Hyland to step in as voting members

Secretary's Report: Mr. Canada distributed the minutes of the April 14, 2021 meeting. ***Ms. Mitchell moved to approve the minutes as presented; Mr. Hyland seconded and the motion passed unanimously.***

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Barker reported there were no significant changes with a balance in the Heritage Fund of \$6,953.77

Committee Reports

Planning Board: Mr. Canada, Planning Board representative to the Commission, reported that there are two upcoming outreach meetings on the Route 33 Legacy Highway project, May 13, 2021 at 6pm and May 22, 2021 at 10 am. Both will be accessible via zoom. Mark Conners, Town Planner, has created a good presentation explaining initiatives and prior work of the ad-hoc committee.

Demolition Review Committee: Nothing to report

Select Board: Mr. Houghton reported that Bay State Pool's Marin way expansion had been approved; Xfinity's 10-year agreement is close to being finalized; Joyce Charbonneau, Town clerk has retired and Deborah Bakie has been appointed to that position. There will be a Memorial Day ceremony with a quiet procession of town vehicles but no parade. The PFAS remediation action plan has been finalized.

Correspondence: Mr. Canada noted that NH Preservation Alliance has sent a general fund-raising solicitation letter. There was consensus that no contribution beyond the commission membership was necessary.

Old Business

Historic Register Nominations:

Old Town Hall: Ms. Mitchell reported that Nate Merrill presented the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places plaque for the Old Town Hall to owner/developer Mark Perlowski. In conversation with Mr. Merrill and Ms. Mitchell, Mr. Perlowski expressed his pleasure at the outcome of the Old Town Hall project, saying that contrary to his initial impression it is “a phenomenal building” and he appreciated working with the Heritage Commission.

21 and 25 River Road: Ms. Mitchell reported that the Preservation Company has completed the outdoor photography on the two properties and the conserved lands of the Forest Society and will address the interior work after Lynne Monroe’s co-worker is fully vaccinated

Town-wide Survey: Nothing to report.

Barn Easements: It was noted that five applications will be going before the Select Board.

Barn assessment grant applications: The application for Jennifer Gunn’s barn at 173 Winnicutt Rd., prepared with the assistance of Mr. Merrill, has been submitted to the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance. Ms. Mitchell noted the tragic loss of the barn at the Scamman farm in a fire late in the evening of May 10. The barn was a contributing structure in the National Register designation of the farm, but it is some consolation that there was no further loss of buildings thanks to the diligence of the many fire fighters called to the scene.

Town Historic Marker Project: Nothing to report.

State Highway Historic Marker Project: Nothing to report.

House Bill 164: Mr. Canada reported that HB 164 had passed the Senate and is waiting for Governor Sununu’s signature.

Veterans Garden: Mr. Houghton reported that the DPW is cleaning and finishing up projects in preparation for the Memorial Day Ceremony. Ms. Mitchell will make sure the one new brick for a US Navy veteran will be ready for Memorial Day.

Lester Lane Marker at Stratham Hill: Mr. Hyland reported that he has met with Brandon Blood regarding his Eagle Scout Project for repairs and improvements to the compass-format marker at the top of the hill. Mr. Blood is scheduled to present his proposal to the Select Board at their May 17 meeting. Mr. Hyland noted that it is a challenge defining the scope of work. There was a wide-ranging discussion of the pros and cons of removing and replacing the existing supporting structure of the cast metal tablet top. Ms. Mitchell suggested that Mr. Blood, currently enrolled in a metal working class, might do some research on the best practices in refinishing the tablet, currently covered with multiple layers of paint. Mr. Hyland also suggested that a conceptual sketch be done of the monument showing a base, supporting structure, and the compass dial tablet. He will continue to provide assistance to Mr. Blood.

New Business

Parker Cabin at Great Bay Discovery Center: Mr. Canada said that Fish and Game supplied a copy of the Historical American Buildings (HABS) report and photographs. Ms. Mitchell said that she would make sure that the Historical Society adds it to their collection. While the Discovery Center remains closed to the public the commission has been invited to visit the display of artifacts and history of the Parker Cabin, a structure determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places that was demolished by NH Fish and Game. Mr. Canada will ask Chairman Merrill to coordinate a visit to the discovery center for Commission members.

Election of Officers: Mr. Canada made a motion to reelect the following officers: Mr. Merrill, Chairperson (seconded by Ms. Mitchell); Ms. Hathaway, Secretary (seconded Ms. Barker); Ms. Barker, Treasurer (seconded by Ms. Mitchell). All officers were elected unanimously.

Adjourned: With a motion from Mr. Canada, seconded by Ms. Wiggin, all present voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Hathaway

Secretary