

**STRATHAM HERITAGE COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 14, 2016  
LAND USE CONFERENCE ROOM**

Members Present: Rebecca Mitchell, Nathan Merrill, Wallace Stuart, David Canada, Tammy Hathaway, Florence Wiggin.

Convened: 7:05 PM by Rebecca Mitchell, Chair

Minutes: The minutes of the July 13, 2016 meeting were approved with the correction that, under Planning Board/TRC, the newly approved building lots behind the old Chase's Tavern at 16 Emery Lane have access to Rt. 108/Portsmouth Ave.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Lane Homestead:** The chair reported that on 7/29/16 the property was transferred from the Neilys to Tonal Heart Property Management LLC (Gregory Pruitt). The warranty deed with the preservation easement attached was recorded on that day with the Rockingham Registry of Deeds. Items remaining on the LCHIP list of Due Diligence include submitting a copy of the title for the property, the NH Preservation Alliance's Stewardship Plan, and the final budget. Additionally, the Town, the Preservation Alliance and LCHIP will collaborate on publicizing the preservation easement. Mitchell reported that more than a dozen descendants of Samuel Lane are travelling to Stratham for the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary parade. She will lead tours of the Lane Homestead for them on the afternoon of Saturday, Sept. 24 and on Monday, Sept. 26, at 10 AM. Commission members who would like to join a tour were urged to attend the Monday morning tour.

**Bartlett –Cushman House:** Repairs to the exterior have been completed and the painting is in process. The storm windows will go in and the old windows will be removed for repair, painting and reinstallation. The commission agreed that Mitchell would oversee this window phase of the project and make any decisions on paint colors. Canada and Mitchell will meet on Sept. 15 with NH Preservation Alliance staff members Jennifer Goodman and Beverley Thomas, NHPA board member/commercial realtor David Choate, and preservation contractor Steve Bedard to consider options for the property .

**300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee and Parade:** Mitchell noted to the board that the NHPTV "Our Town" program on Stratham will be shown this Friday 9/16/16 at the Middle School. Merrill has arranged for an ox cart and 3 steers for the parade. Dana Dowling agreed to build a frame for the cart to hold the Heritage Commission's banners. Mitchell will accompany the cart wearing a period costume. Stuart and Hathaway will also participate. Merrill is driving a tractor in the parade. Wiggin is organizing a contingent of town elders and Canada will be participating with fellow selectmen.

**Planning Board/Technical Review Committee:** Canada reported that the Planning Board will be reviewing a site plan from Stratham Hill Stone at 313 Portsmouth Ave. Mitchell reported that, at the request of the Town Planner, she had submitted a letter on the commission's behalf supporting the Town's application for grants to extend the transportation/streetscape improvements in the Town Center. The letter replicated the letter approved by the commission and submitted for the initial grant. Merrill reported that the TRC is working on several adjustments to the Gateway code.

**Demolition Review Committee:** Merrill reported that members of the DRC and town staff had met with the owners of 104 Union Rd. The owners, after being informed of the historic significance of the property and the potential financial benefit of selling the property with the historic structures, seem to have backed away from demolition. As far as the commission knows, they have not taken steps toward subdividing the property. Lucy Cushman, 160 Winnicutt Rd., requested a permit to demolish her small barn currently used as a garage. The committee met at the site and decided that while the structure is historic they would allow the application to go forward since she is replacing it with a similar structure on the original footprint. At the same time the committee pointed out to Cushman that the structure could easily be repaired at less expense compared to new construction.

**Regional Meeting:** Mitchell reported that the regional meeting of Heritage Commissions/Historic District Commissions will be on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at Centennial Hall in North Hampton from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Registration forms will be coming soon.

**Old Town Hall:** Lisa Mousolf, preservation consultant, will tour the Old Town Hall with Mitchell in the week of Sept. 26. The commission agreed it is desirable to keep moving forward on the application for the New Hampshire Register of Historic places.

**Wiggin Family Cemetery:** Peter Wiggin has finished clearing the trail from the rear of the old Stratham Depot to the cemetery site. The trail leads to an area cleared around the grave markers and the stone commemorating Thomas Wiggin. He asked that the commission, on behalf of the Town, write a letter of thanks to Ralph and Phyllis Danko who had contributed major volunteer labor. Mitchell distributed a draft of her letter and, since no changes were suggested, will get it printed and sent. Stuart and Mitchell reported that they had visited the site. Commenting on the significant work that was done they also observed that regular maintenance is required to keep the trail and the cemetery area clear. Mitchell agreed to write to Peter Wiggin recognizing his hard work and asking if he would like the Town to get involved in future maintenance.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Chase's Tavern:** John Reiss, owner of Chase's Tavern at 16 Emery Lane, has reached out to Mitchell regarding his concerns for the future of his home. Mitchell will schedule a site visit for the commission and will invite him to attend our October meeting.

**Town-wide Survey:** Merrill raised the importance of town-wide survey to guide future preservation and planning. He suggested that one approach would be to request money to support survey in the 2017 CIP budget.

**Announcements:**

Mitchell reported that on October 25, 4-8pm the NH Preservation Alliance will host an event to announce the 2016 Seven to Save and also to recognize Maggie Stier's years of service to the Alliance. Mitchell will attend and invited others to join her.

The New Hampshire Division of Historic Resources, Symposium on the National Historic Preservation Act will be an all-day event on 10/28/16 in Concord

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

**NEXT MEETING: October 12, 2016 at 7 PM**

Submitted by,  
Tammy Hathaway  
Rebecca Mitchell