

**STRATHAM HERITAGE COMMISSION  
MEETINGS MINUTES**

**July 13, 2016**

**Selectmen's Conference Room**

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

Convened: 7:05 PM by Rebecca Mitchell

Minutes: The minutes of the June 8, 2016 meeting were approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Lane Homestead Preservation Easement:** Mitchell reported that the LCHIP due diligence requirements including the survey and environmental site work are underway. The latter revealed an old fuel tank in a crawl space under the corn house building (called The Tannery by the owners). Both the property owner and buyer have been notified. The easement language is still in the review process and the title work has yet to be completed. Because LCHIP requests all of their required due diligence be submitted for review 5 weeks before the closing date the selectmen have agreed to purchase the easement at the July 29 closing with the money from the LCHIP grant coming later as a reimbursement. Mitchell has finished the Statement of Significance and Historical Overview sections of the Baseline Documentation.

**Bartlett-Cushman House:** With \$50,000.00 for painting and repairs to the house having been approved at Town Meeting, Mitchell and Canada reported that planning for the work is going forward. Window restoration or replacement was part of the planned work. After acquiring quotes for each option the Selectmen agreed to fund restoration as the less costly treatment with the added benefit of preserving the historic value of the building. New storm windows will be included in the project.

**Demolition Review Committee:** Merrill reported that the Demolition Review Committee (minus Mitchell who was out of town) along with the town planner, building inspector/code enforcement officer and David Canada met on June 28 to review an application for a demolition permit to totally demolish the house at 104 Union Road. The meeting took place on site. After fully viewing the exterior perimeter of the house the consensus of the committee members and others present was that the structure was sound, straight and true and in need of some general upkeep but with no serious problems visible from the outside. Merrill also reported that the Area Form Survey completed in connection with the gas pipeline construction (Sheet 9-10) records that the house, built c. 1825 by Thomas Piper, is "an excellent example of the Greek Revival style" and "probably eligible" for the National Register for its architectural value. The form also records that the property might be further eligible because of its association with Piper, as

the owner of a grist mill at Winnicutt Mills. The committee unanimously concluded that the property is historically significant.

The committee has been trying to contact and meet with owners but have had no response. Merrill will continue with email and mailing a letter. Mitchell said she will try to discover the names of the owners beyond the single name on the demolition application. Mitchell made a motion that the Heritage Commission supports the Demolition Review Committee's finding that the house at 104 Union Rd. is historically significant and that if efforts to prevent demolition fail the DRC will request access to document the structure. Canada seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**Planning Board/Technical Review Committee:** Canada reported that the Porsche dealership had a preliminary site plan review but the plan failed to include the development of the back road consistent with the Gateway District requirements, and that they have yet to produce a Master Plan as requested. Canada also noted that there were 2 building lots approved adjacent to the Stratham Community Church cemetery having access to Route 108/Portsmouth Ave. behind the old Chase's Tavern at 16 Emery Lane.

**Veterans' Garden:** After a short discussion the consensus of the meeting was that the commission would not revisit the matter of adding the National League of POW/MIA Families' flag to the pole at the Veterans' Garden and that the matter now rests with the Board of Selectmen.

**Regional Meeting of Heritage Commissions/Historic District Commissions:** Mitchell met this morning (July 13) with some members from the Rye and North Hampton Heritage Commissions to organize the regional meeting. The proposed date for the meeting is Saturday, October 15. The meeting and program will be held in the morning with lunch to follow. Nadine Miller, Preservation Projects Reviewer at the NH Division of Historical Resources, will lead the program on "Section 106," the legislatively mandated review process that identifies potential impact upon significant historic properties in the planning stages of state and federally funded projects. Mitchell pointed out that the National Historic Preservation Act that mandates this process is 50 years old in 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

**Next Meeting: September 14, 2016 at 7pm**

Submitted by:  
Tammy Hathaway  
Rebecca Mitchell