

**STRATHAM HERITAGE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

April 13, 2016

7:00 pm

Land Use Conference Room

Members Present: Rebecca Mitchell, David Canada, Nathan Merrill, Wallace Stuart, Tammy Hathaway, Florence Wiggin and Terry Barnes. Guest: Lee Paladino, Planning Board
Paul Deschaine joined the meeting at 8:30

Convened: 7:00 PM by Rebecca Mitchell

Minutes: The minutes of the March 9, 2016 meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Membership: Mitchell welcomed new alternate member Terry Barnes to the Heritage Commission.

Treasurer's Report/Budget: Merrill reported that at the end of February, after a \$45 expenditure, a balance of \$3,705 was in the operating budget. There is a balance of \$4,440 in the Heritage Fund, and \$43,711 in the 300th Anniversary's Committee's share of the fund.

Planning Board/Technical Review Committee: Merrill had nothing new to report. He initiated a discussion of the need to settle whether proposed projects should be sent first to the TRC or to the Planning Board. Canada and Merrill briefed the commission on the meetings that have been held on how best to move forward following the Town Meeting defeat of Article 4, to fund a public water system for the Gateway district. On May 11 at 6:30 pm, at the Municipal Center there will be a presentation for all town committees to attend. The goal of the meeting is to educate this core group and to create "ambassadors" for the importance of the Gateway District and the need for water and sewer. Mitchell noted the importance of input from the Heritage Commission. Canada will be meeting with the owners of both the King's Highway Plaza and the Staples plaza properties for input.

Lane Homestead Easement: Mitchell noted the passage of Warrant Article 7 at Town Meeting, appropriating \$250,000 to the Heritage Preservation Fund, for the purpose of purchasing a preservation easement on the Lane Homestead. She reported on the progress of the easement language being written by the Preservation Alliance. A survey of the property will be required for the LCHIP grant. Mitchell noted that neither survey nor Environmental Site Assessment had been required for the project budget included with the grant application. She will seek 2-3 quotes. Mitchell has been in contact with Lane family members who will be traveling to Stratham for the April 30, 2016 historical play, and she will be hosting the family for dinner before the performance.

Town Center: Canada reported that work on the sidewalks is to start this month. At present installation of lighting is on hold.

(At this time, Merrill temporarily left the meeting for a brief appearance at the Conservation Commission.)

Canada reported that the 300th Anniversary Committee wants to install banners in the Town Center, but has no funds in their budget for them. The Board of Selectmen approved spending up to \$1,200 toward the banners. Canada made a motion to approve that the Chair appropriate \$600 from Heritage Commission funds to support the 300th Anniversary banners. Stuart seconded and all were in favor. It was noted that if, at the end of the year, funds are available in the 300th Anniversary account the \$600 (or some portion of it) will be returned to the commission's budget.

(At this time, Merrill returned to the meeting.)

Merrill offered to contact the owner of Stratham's old Town Hall to get permission to proceed with an application nominating the building to the New Hampshire Register of Historic Places.

Bartlett-Cushman House: Mitchell, following a suggestion from the NH Preservation Alliance, is working on a press release to renew public understanding of the Town's goals for the property. Canada noted that the RFP has been revised and he and Mitchell have been discussing with the Preservation Alliance how best to market the property's potential. It was noted by Canada that before painting commences the clapboards will be repaired.

Veteran's Garden: The commission reviewed the language of the April 4, 2016 draft policy for engraving names on monuments and bricks at the Veteran's Garden. Merrill made a motion to approve the policy, Stuart seconded, and all were in favor. Mitchell will send the policy Paul Deschaine for consideration by the Board of Selectmen.

Canada reported that Peter Wiggin had approached the Selectmen requesting that a P.O.W./M.I.A. flag replace the Stratham town flag on the flagpole at the Veterans' Garden. After a discussion Merrill moved that the P.O.W./ M.I.A flag not be flown at the Veterans' Garden due to the fact that the flag represents a non-governmental organization that holds some widely disproven and controversial positions. After remarking that he had studied and thought about the matter at some length, Stuart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

RPC/C-Rise meeting report: Stuart attended the Rockingham Planning Commission April 17, 2016 C-Rise meeting addressing climate risk in the seacoast. Each municipality was asked to ID 10 culverts to analyze for sea-level rise and storm surge Stuart also explained that there was software available that could be used to help predict storm surge. A discussion followed on the importance of a historical resource survey and the relationship to storm surge damage.

New Business:

Five-Year State Preservation Plan: Mitchell reported that the NH Division of Historical Resources' "New Hampshire Five-Year Preservation Plan, 2016-2020" is available on the Divisions' website at: <https://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/programs/plan.htm>.

Mitchell credited the work that Stuart put in to contributing Stratham photographs to the online map, My New Hampshire:

<http://nhdhr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=539d068631644a47aea42fb61b718237>

Stuart's My New Hampshire photo of Scamman Farm is included in the New Hampshire Five-Year Preservation Plan.

NHPTV Our Hometown Series: Recording will take place over the weekend. Commission members Wiggin and Mitchell will participate, the latter sharing a story about Samuel Lane.

Election of officers at May meeting: The chair asked members to attend the May meeting prepared to nominate and vote for officers for the coming year.

May meeting: Because of the meeting for all boards, commissions, and committees scheduled for May 11 (our usual meeting date) the Heritage Commission will meet on the following Wednesday, May 18.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00

NEXT MEETING: May 18, 2016

Submitted by:
Tammy Hathaway
Rebecca Mitchell