

**STRATHAM HERITAGE COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 9, 2016**  
**7:00 pm**  
**Land Use Conference Room**

Members Present: Rebecca Mitchell, David Canada, Wallace Stuart, Tammy Hathaway and Florence Wiggin. Guest: Lee Paladino, Planning Board

Convened: 7:00 PM by Rebecca Mitchell. Alternate members Tammy Hathaway took a full voting position in lieu of a Planning Board member and Florence Wiggin in the absence Nathan Merrill.

Minutes: The minutes of the February 24, 2016 meeting were approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Membership:** Mitchell explained the importance of having a Planning Board member on the Heritage Commission, and said that it has also been helpful to have input from the Planning Board representative to the Demolition Review Committee. Recognizing that there is also an alternate position vacant, Canada said he will speak with Terry Barnes to see if he has any interest in either the Demolition Review Committee and/or the Heritage Commission.

**Planning Board/Demolition Review:** Mitchell reported that a redevelopment plan for 9 Portsmouth Ave. proposes demolition of the gas station currently on that site. There was a discussion of a residence at 291 Portsmouth Ave. that is on the market. There was general agreement that this property has suffered from neglect and is a potential target for demolition.

**Bartlett-Cushman House:** Canada reported that the RFP is ready and he will review with Mitchell. The property was shown to 2 potential business parties the previous week. Mitchell reported that she is volunteering at the Old House and Barn Expo on March 12 in the Preservation Alliance booth that will feature the Bartlett Cushman House as a historic property looking for a redevelopment partner.

**Lane Homestead Easement and Warrant Article 7:** The commission agreed that Canada will move the motion on Article 7 and Mitchell will speak, outlining the threat to the property from the May 2015 redevelopment proposal and the agreement of all concerned parties that a preservation easement was the best response to that threat. Given the persistent misunderstanding that the Town will in some fashion “own” the property she will explain that the property stays in private hands (subject to both Stratham taxes and zoning regulations) while the NH Preservation Alliance will both hold the easement and monitor compliance.

**Veteran’s Garden:** The commission reviewed the language of the policy for engraving names on monuments and bricks at the Veteran’s Garden. Mitchell presented a preliminary draft written to be more concise. The commission agreed to add the word “official” to this sentence:

“Stratham was the official home of record during war or period of conflict”. This rewrite and discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05

**NEXT MEETING: April 13, 2016**

Submitted by:  
Tammy Hathaway  
Rebecca Mitchell