

STRATHAM HERITAGE COMMISSION
Minutes of February 10, 2016 Meeting
7 PM; Municipal Center Staff Room

Members Present: Rebecca Mitchell, Wallace Stuart and Tammy Hathaway.
Guests: Paul Deschaine joined at 8:15

Convened: 7:00 PM by Rebecca Mitchell. Alternate member Tammy Hathaway took a full voting position.

Minutes: Lacking a quorum of those present on January 13, the minutes of that meeting will be approved at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Veteran's Garden: At their January 25 meeting the Board of Selectmen were in general agreement to re-affirm the 2006 policy adopted by the Heritage Commission. The board asked Paul Deschaine to check if the Board at that time had formally adopted the policy, and if not they will do so soon. At the same meeting the Board of Selectmen decided in favor of George Rubin's application for an exception from the policy.

Lane Homestead and February Program: Mitchell reported that Dave Canada has been in contact with the property owners since the last Heritage Commission meeting. At the February 8 public hearing the Board Of Selectmen unanimously recommended **Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$250,000.00) to be deposited in the "Heritage Preservation Fund" as created by the March 11, 2011 Town Meeting.** After a discussion Stuart moved that the Heritage Commission recommend the article. Hathaway seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously in favor.

On Primary day Mitchell and Stuart set up and managed a table showcasing the Lane Homestead and reported that 6 Samuel Lane Books were sold. Mitchell outlined the anticipated basic elements of the yet-to-be-negotiated preservation easement: it will prohibit demolition and relocation of the four key buildings; it will remain in private hands will be subject to the regulations of the Town Center Zoning District; new construction of both separate buildings and additions will be allowed; the easement will be held by the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance; the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation will apply. The commission members agreed that educating the public about the preservation

easement prior to town meeting was important. Preparation for the February 12, Lane Homestead program is complete. Hathaway, Stuart and Mitchell agreed to meet at 3pm to set up table and chairs and prepare the room. Hathaway will provide water for the speakers.

Planning Board & Technical Review Committee: Mitchell reported that the CIP budget included reserve funds to support a new Master Plan, recognizing that outside help is needed to move that task forward in a timely fashion.

300th Anniversary: Mitchell has been in contact with Priscilla Lane Moore Tapley, descendent of Samuel Lane, who plans to attend Stratham's 300th historical play on April 30.

Bartlett-Cushman House: Mitchell reported that painting and siding repairs are included in the town budget and that there is an upcoming conference call with Mitchell, David Canada, Maggie Steir and David Choate to discuss a marketing plan for the property

NHPTV/ "Our Hometown" program: Mitchell reported that she and Floss Wiggin attended the "kick-off meeting" with producer Carla Russell and videographer Schuyler Scribner. The next phase will be two workshops on story telling with Rebecca Rule on Saturday March 5 from 1-3pm and Thursday March 17 from 6-8pm. Stratham will be the third town in the series and the first on the seacoast.

NEW BUSINESS:

Next meeting and Agenda: In order to have sufficient time to discuss some long-term goals of the commission and ways to be more proactive in the face of various challenges facing the town the members agreed that it was desirable to add another meeting either this month or in March. Additionally, that meeting could include Tavis Austin, Town Planner. Two possible dates agreed upon were February 24 and March 23. The Chair will poll absent commission members and Austin.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

NEXT MEETINGS: February 24 and March 9, 2016

Submitted by:

Tammy Hathaway and Rebecca Mitchell