

**Exeter Heritage Commission**

**Wheelwright Room**

**Exeter Town Office Bldg.**

**January 16, 2013**

**Members present:** *Selectwoman Julie Gilman, Mary Dupré, Jaime Lopez and Chairman Peter Michaud*

Chairman Michaud called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm in the Wheelwright Room in the Town Office Building.

- **Approval of minutes**

Ms. Gilman moved to approve the draft minutes of November 21, 2012 (there being no meeting in December); seconded by Ms. Dupré. Motion carried.

- **Discussion of the study for removal of Exeter River Great Dam**

No date has been set for the next public meeting. Additional time is needed to prepare the engineering designs and costs of an alternative design/modification in compliance with the DES parameters.

- **Form Based Code update**

The proposed zoning change was approved at a December Planning Board meeting to rezone the parcels fronting on Portsmouth Ave. from High St. to the intersection of Green Hill Road ( up to Walgreen's) and Highland Ave. from the current zoning designation to the C-1, downtown commercial district.

- **Baggage Building project**

From the interviews with the responding architects to the RFP for the scope and design of the baggage building (to be the Welcome Center at train station) THA Architects, LLC from Stratham, NH were chosen. Next steps will include surveying and an appraisal of the property. There will be scheduled public hearings in compliance with the Department of Transportation (DOT) requirements in acceptance of the grant.

- **Future project discussion**

- Walking Tour
- 375 Anniversary of Exeter

Ms. Gilman reported at a recent meeting of those interested in planning the celebration ideas were solicited; the walking tour, a dedicated parade, the involvement with as many organizations/individuals as possible were suggested. The next meeting will be to refine the list of possible activities.

The walking tours are still a strong priority but to develop a phone app will require further development.

Ms. Gilman still plans to do a public meeting on the recently completed Town Mapping Survey as a fore runner to the 375<sup>th</sup> celebration. Mr. Lopez agreed to help with the program. No date has been set for the presentation.

- **Demolition requests update**

- Update to ordinance

## Draft Minutes

A second public hearing on the proposed amendment to the Town Zoning Ordinance was held at the January 10, 2013 Planning Board meeting and was approved. The amendment to Article 5.3.5 has various references to the *business/calendar day requirement* requested for the demolition review process.

Both proposed amendments (rezoning portion of Portsmouth Ave. and change to the demolition review process) will be on the warrant for the March 2013 Town ballot.

- **Properties at risk**

The transfer of the Conner Farm to a private owner continues to make its way through the various State agencies/regulations.

- **New members/New Chairman**

Mr. Michaud read a letter of resignation to the Heritage Commission from Ron Schutz as a move from the town is planned.

Mr. Michaud also confirmed he was submitting his resignation as Chairman and member of the Heritage Commission as he too will be residing in a community outside of Exeter.

He was thanked for all his work for the Commission and for the Town. Vice Chair Julie Gilman will step up to the Chairmanship.

Discussion on possible new members to the Commission followed; the Commission can have seven members.

- **Other Business**

In preparing for the written Commission for the Town Annual Report, the activities and accomplishments of the Commission of the past year were reviewed; members present felt there were some important contributions.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Raub  
Recording Secretary