

**Exeter Heritage Commission**

**Wheelwright Room**

**Exeter Town Office Bldg.**

**May 08, 2013**

Members present: John Merkle, Kelly Bergeron, Jaime Lopez, Mary Dupré and Julie Gilman, Chairwoman

**Business:**

- **NH DHR grant discussion**

With the deadline approaching to submit an application for grant funding available to Certified Local Government (CLG) towns from NH Division of Historical Resource, Ms. Gilman noted a previous discussion focused on doing a survey of the Franklin Street area. The previous mapping survey report recommended a closer look be taken at this area but there is a need to determine more definitive locale/boundaries. It seems not many people know of this area, but Ms. Gilman added when doing research on a previous Demolition Review application, she learned it has a history of diverse use and warrants further study. Ms. Gilman noted presently there is an interest by several Town departments in that area as it presents an opportunity for possible zoning changes with Al's Automotive Shop leaving Franklin St. and relocating to Epping Road. The Town parties are making themselves available to the owners of the now vacant property (and other properties held by that owner) to aid in any re-development of the Franklin St. property. The Commission members, referencing a town map denoting the buildings on the streets- of- interest, determined the area to be included was Franklin St., South St., Bow St., Brown's Court, Clifford St., and River St.(the portion of Court St. in this area was not to be included).

Further defining the scope of the project/application, it was agreed it is to be a continuation of the recently completed Town mapping survey with more attention and narrative devoted to this area. Ms. Bergeron summarized it as an overview history of this area; "these houses were used for..." The discussion then focused on the dollar amount to accompany the application. There is no requirement for matching funds but the Heritage Commission does have a separate account from the Town operating account although the amount available at this time is uncertain. Mr. Merkle suggested assigning an amount and DHR will advise if the dollar amount is acceptable and perhaps advise what could or could not be done with a dollar amount they feel would achieve the goal of the project. Ms. Gilman will confer with a former resident and Commission member for guidance.

Because the application is due the week of May 13, 2013 the Chair requested assistance in preparing the necessary documents to accompany the application; narrative, maps, letters of support from the various Town departments and Commissions. It was determined the Economic Development Commission has a working group presently studying the formation of a TIF (Tax Increment Financing) district that encompasses this area; this study could be a component of their study. Ms. Gilman is to attend the EEDC meeting on Tuesday, May 14, 2013 and will bring a letter of support for their endorsement. Ms. Bergeron agreed to prepare a narrative and Mr. Lopez will take photos of the designated area to accompany the application.

- **Town Mapping Survey**

Ms. Gilman is scheduled to present the mapping program to the Exeter Economic Development Commission on May 14, 2013 at 8:00 am in the Nowak Room. She noted she has obtained extra maps to

add to the presentation. She is also planning another presentation at the Town Hall when the repairs are complete; hopefully in June.

- **Properties at risk**

Mr. Merkle noted the Conner Farm (accessed by a passageway--across from the Barking Dog on Rt. 27--under Rt.101) appears to have been "saved." Because it is a property held by a State agency the process of transferring the home and 5 acres to private ownership has been somewhat lengthy; Fish and Game will retain ownership of the remaining 195 acres.

- **New business**

The Commission continues to seek new members. The suggestion was made to put a posting on the Town's Facebook page.

### **Other Business**

- **Approval of minutes from the March 13, 2013 meeting**

There was not a scheduled meeting in April. Ms. Dupré motioned to accept the March minutes as presented; seconded by Ms. Bergeron. Motion carried with Mr. Lopez abstaining as he was not present at the meeting.

- **Additional business**

The Chair noted the need to establish the officers for the Commission for 2013-2014. The duties of a Treasurer were outlined and Mr. Lopez agreed to serve in this capacity. The Heritage's funds are handled by the Finance Department and Trustees of the Trust Funds; his name will appear on any funds dispersed.

Ms. Gilman agreed to stay on as Chairman if agreeable with the Commission; no objections were voiced.

With no further business, the Chair entertained a motion to adjourn. Ms. Bergeron moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Lopez.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Raub  
Recording Secretary