

**Exeter Heritage Commission**

**Wheelwright Room**

**Exeter Town Office Bldg.**

**July 10, 2013**

Members present: Mary Dupré, Kelly Bergeron, Jamie Lopez and Chairwoman Julie Gilman

**Business:**

- NH Preservation Alliance  
Ms. Gilman stated the Heritage Commission's annual membership was set for renewal. She explained the Alliance is a statewide nonprofit historic preservation organization offering assistance/resources to community leaders and property owners. It is dedicated to preservation of NH historic buildings, communities and landscapes; works very strongly with the NH Division of Historic Resources. Motion to renew the membership was made by Ms. Bergeron; seconded by Mr. Lopez. Motion passed.

- Discussion of NHDHR grant for Franklin Street survey  
Previous discussions were referenced on doing a survey of the Bow, River and Franklin Street block and apply for grant funds for a survey to learn more of their history before the landscape of the area changes through possible re-zoning and/or re-development. Ms. Gilman completed the application for the NHDHR grant funds and reported the application was approved with the Heritage Commission (Town) awarded \$14,400.00. These funds will allow a preservation planner be contracted to complete the study.

She continued outlining the role of Exeter being a Certified Local Government town permitting the Town to pursue the study without the requirement to have matching funds. However, the grant notes the Commission will contribute \$500 from the Heritage Commission town budget to the project. The agreement was reviewed noting there is a commitment for Commission members to contribute to the project in the form of in-kind services. In this project it will be the review of the project as it progresses. A final report with the budget expenditures documented will go to the US Department of Interior for review.

The agreement lists a schedule of dates quarterly reports are due for submission; discussion followed on adjusting meeting dates to provide review time before submission. Consultant needs to be mindful of the report due-dates.

The Board of Selectmen at their last meeting approved Ms. Gilman as the administrator of the grant. The agreement still needs to be reviewed and approved by the Governor's Council and Department of Interior (the source of the funds) before any work can proceed. But while awaiting approval (s) the RFP can be prepared outlining the scope of the project. Copies of previous RFP's were available for members to review to aid in proposing new language to be included in this proposal.

- 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary update  
Ms. Dupré reported on a Victorian Tea party event she organized at the Squamscott View Apartments (Exeter Housing Authority units). The theme concentrated on the Victorian era in Exeter's history. An invited guest, in period costume, spoke to the attendees on the "proper" etiquette of the social function.

## Draft Minutes

Also, a retired PEA archeology instructor spoke to them and provided photographs and artifacts of excavation projects on Academy property.

Ms. Gilman reported the 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee has many ideas but is in need of individuals to follow through on the projects. With a Town warrant approved budget of \$20,000, the committee used a majority of the funds to purchase commemorative merchandise: T-shirts and re-useable grocery bags (shown). The merchandise is being sold at Farmer's Market and will be at the American Independence Festival on Saturday, July 20, 2013; volunteers are needed to man the table at both functions.

Ms. Gilman plans to show the original town mapping survey (with additional maps added to presentation) at least two more time this summer; would like to show to Heritage Commission at August meeting. For more activities it was suggested to visit the 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary page on Town website.

- Goal setting

The Chairwoman wished the members to start thinking about what they wished to accomplish; what does the Commission want to do and to prioritize the ideas. At previous meetings there was talk of a walking tour, development of an app for a self-guided tour and develop signage for various locations within the Town.

In discussing signage, it was agreed it was a long term planning process as the graphics, sign materials, and the need for consistency are important factors and can become expensive. Although Ms. Gilman responded there might be some grant monies out there for the project, but not necessarily from the State.

The Historical Society has a walking tour already written and that could be used as a base and add additional points of interest to it. Asked individuals to bring back to next meeting their ideas/priorities they would like to see Commission undertake.

### **Other Business:**

- Approval of minutes of May 08, 2013 meeting.

Ms. Dupré motioned to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Mr. Lopez. Motion carried.

- Great Dam Removal study.

On June 26, 2013 at the Exeter High School, the Great Dam Removal Feasibility and Impact Analysis was presented to the public for comment and review. The study will be on the next month's agenda for discussion. Heritage Commission will be asked for their opinion as part of the 106 Review process but before, there is a response period (until August 14) on this presentation/report.

At a recent Planning Board meeting, a conceptual plan was presented for townhouses along Franklin St. The Chair will on ask the Chair of the PB to seek an opinion on the plan from the Heritage Commission based on the anticipated study of the area.

Motion to adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Ginny Raub