

Exeter Heritage Commission

Wheelwright Room

Exeter Town Office Bldg.

September 11, 2013

Members present: John Merkle, Jaime Lopez, HDC representative Pam Gjettum, and Chairwoman Julie Gilman.

Meeting convene at 7:03 pm

Business:

- **375th anniversary update**

No report at this time, however the Chair asked for ideas for what the Heritage Commission could do. Suggested members review Newburyport site and their walking tour using Google maps app.; felt the Town should have something on their website. She would like ideas as there is nothing at this time Ms. Gjettum commented the Historical Society has several walking trails on their web site. Ms. Gilman agreed and didn't want to duplicate; find a way to complement each other. Perhaps add history and content to the noted buildings and its residents.

- **Properties at risk**

The Chair distributed copies of the agenda for the September 17, meeting of the ZBA listing the application of Jeff Turner and Lori Whitney (d/b/a/ The Green Bean on Water) for the expansion of a non-conforming use to permit a proposed increase of (80) seats to the existing restaurant with less than the required number of parking spaces being provided.

Noting, if approved, the new construction would most likely remove the yellow aluminum treatment on the front of the Trends Gallery shop currently at that location (discussing its present appearance). Mr. Merkle reminded the group can't be subjective. It does have historic value and accept it for what it is.

The Planning Department brought to Ms. Gilman's attention the Zoning Board agenda for September 18, knowing the Heritage Commission had applied for a grant to conduct a Franklin Street Area Inventory. The ZBA agenda for September 18, 2013 lists Mr. Allen Lampert's plans for re-development of a good portion of Franklin St. (Copies of the conceptual plan were distributed although not certain they are the actual drawings being shown to ZBA as a notation indicates the building on the end is to remain.) They are looking for a number of changes in the zoning and requirements as it goes from Commercial to Residential. With that said Ms. Gilman felt the Heritage Commission will get a least 3 demolition review requests.

Mr. Merkle stated that won't happen until there is approval; neither ZBA nor PB has ruled on this. Ms. Gilman just wanted members to be prepared with the newly revised DRO having the 5

day window for response. Discussion continued as the conceptual plan was reviewed and the proposed changes and clarifying what was permitted in each of the present zones.

It was suggested to look around Franklin St. and get as much background that would be helpful when the request for Demolition Review does come forward. The only building in the Historic District is the Long Block and a small garage that does not show on the conceptual plan.

Discussion continued on the shortcomings of the plan provided to the Commission; of concern was the lack of sidewalks and the amount of sealed surfaces. As to what role the Heritage Commission would play they could comment if the historical integrity of the area is compromised; maybe when asked for demolition. If any members found they were able to attend the September 18th meeting they could remind the ZBA the process (for approval) includes the Demolition Review process conducted by the Heritage Commission.

- **Invitation for Proposal for the Franklin Area Inventory Form**

Ms. Gilman submitted a copy of the proposal prior to meeting for those newer members to look at language and did they understand the scope of work and general information desired. Discussion focused on scope of work and the date for seeking a contractor. Ms. Gilman stated the State DHR will review this proposal to verify it meets their criteria before being allowed to go out for bid.

Other Business:

- Approval of minutes of the July 10, 2013 meeting was tabled as there was not a quorum present who attended that meeting.

With no further business, Ms. Gjettum motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Lopez.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Raub
Recording secretary