

Exeter Heritage Commission
Draft Minutes

Wheelwright Room

Exeter Town Office

January 8, 2014

Members present: Julie Gilman, Chair, Pam Gjettum, HDC Rep., Mary Dupre, Jaime Lopez, Kelly Bergeron

Chairwoman Gilman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Wheelwright Room of the Town Office building.

Julie wanted to get approval of the minutes from December 3rd and 11th at the beginning of the meeting. Mary had a few changes on both sets of minutes. Motion to approve by Julie, seconded by Kelly. All in favor and motion approved as amended.

375th Anniversary update. There is still merchandise left. It is ok to advertise and sell. Did not make a profit, but did not overspend. Jaime Lopez still has plenty of merchandise but has not sold anything yet. The end of the year party was a great success and at least 100 people attended. Fireworks were excellent.

Question was asked about the articles on 1 Franklin Street. How are people getting the information? All the meetings are public. Julie asked if the commission should have some sort of response to defend their decision. Pam stated that Al and his architect are going to try and save a part of it. Julie's frustration is how the general public has no idea how the commission made its decision.

A letter was handed out to the members explaining how the decision was made regarding demolition. Jaime said that the building has potential for blending in. Not pretty, but can be attractive if given some TLC. Building alone was allowed to deteriorate. The building needs landscaping because it is just as important in making it look better. It can be enhanced. The outside site walk was ok. It is in pretty good condition, no cracks and the construction sound. The roof structure has been adjusted to maintain its integrity. Jaime stated that the building does not fit in with its surroundings, but it could be enhanced. Whoever is taking care of this building, without making structural changes, could make it look good.

An example would be a fresh coat of paint. These types of changes were let go perhaps because the building was a garage.

A motion by Julie was made, seconded by Kelly to send the letter to the editor (Seacoast online), from the commission. Motion approved as all were in favor. A motion by Kelly was made to name John Merkle as the contact person before the letter pending his approval. Seconded by Pam. Motion approved.

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Pam asked what would happen if John said no or there was no contact with John. Julie stated that ideally it would go into Friday's paper, but she will wait until Tuesdays paper if no contact.

New Business: Franklin Street Survey

With the grant the commission received, Julie went to the initial start-up meeting with consultant Lynn Monroe to set schedules of submissions. Had a proposal that was shrunk because of the RFP. We do not actually have to submit anything until August. The schedule has our consultant presenting once or twice before that to us. Will have time to respond and make comments in September.

Julie told the commission that she was given the opportunity to actually get paid to work on the project. She needs to clearly define what the commission wants for consultation and won't do ourselves as commissioners. Julie needs to break away from what she would be doing. Her name would be on the town side, not the consultant side. She would like to do deed research.

Jaime asked what Julie was asking and she stated that someone needs to make a motion to exclude the deed research from the duties of the commission for this project at 1 Franklin Street. Suggestion made to give the task of the deed research to the consultant that is hired. Julie stated that she will try and figure this out and it does not have to be done right away.

Julie also stated that what else came out of the discussion was getting historical photos of the area. Pam stated that she has a box of photos. Julie would like to put an ad in the newspaper asking the public if they have lived or know of someone who lives or lived on Franklin Street and have photos they would like to share with us. The commission wants to see the change over time. The contact person for these photos will be the Town Office Administrative Assistant.

With no further business, Pam motioned to adjourn, seconded by Kelly. All were in favor so meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Herrick
Recording Secretary