

Exeter Heritage Commission
April 9, 2014
Final Minutes

Wheelwright Room

Exeter Town Office

Members present: Julie Gilman, Chair; Mary Dupre; Jaime Lopez; Pam Gjettum, HDC Rep.; and John Merkle

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

First business: Minutes of March 12, 2014. After a few amendments, Julie motioned to approve, seconded by Jaime. Minutes approved as amended.

Julie passed out the Franklin Street Area – Progress Report from Kari Laprey, Preservation Company. She would like to do some research, mostly deed research. She would like some help from the commission. Julie has a marked up list of what she needs. There are four properties that she wants to go back some on, and a lot of deed research has been done. On the last paragraph of the hand out, she is asking for a letter from the Heritage Commission. Julie will look into this because they are not allowed to go onto property without permission. John agrees. They can knock on the door and give the letter explaining what they are doing. Julie will send out the marked up copy of what Kari has, census data and deed research. Julie has the Ancestry.com password so they can go onto the website and get their own information. They will be able to go as far back on the ownerships as they can. John asked if Kari has a list of the properties, and she does. Julies stated that the company is very excited to do the work.

Julie stated that the Conservation Commission is applying for a roof grant for the Rayne's Farm Barn. They would like a letter of recommendation for the commission. Julie will write this letter as the chair.

Properties at Risk: Pam stated the two on Franklin Street. Julie asked Pam if she has any further thoughts about actions that can be taken. Pam stated that all she can think about is having a big meeting like they did before. Pam is not sure if this would even work. She can't think of anything, and she does not know who would speak. It is just the commission that has a concern. Pam stated that she knows people on the street are upset, but nobody will say anything. Julie asked when the next Historical Society Meeting was. Pam stated it will be the 6th of May. Julie will be willing to speak at this meeting. Julie stated she was thinking of going to the Historical Society and expressing the concerns of the Heritage Commission. Pam will put Julie on their agenda. Julie would somehow like to craft a message of asking the Historical Society if they are interested in saving these buildings. Pam asked Julie if something should be sent out in the mass mailing first and Julie agreed that it would be a good idea. If this meeting takes place, Pam asked where it would be. Julie stated depending on the interest, they could reserve a room in the Town Hall. Pam stated they need effective type people to attend this meeting. Pam recommended Judy Dupre because her family lived there. This is about 25 and 29 Franklin Street.

Julie stated that the work has started on 196 High Street and looks good.

Pam asked John if he had any ideas. John could not think of anything off hand. Stated commission did everything they needed to do for the garage. We researched it and the HDC did what they needed to do. What is sad, is only one house will be left on that block. Julie stated that the scale is going to change also. Julie asked Pam to put the following on the Historical Society Agenda, 1) mass mailing, 2) add Julie, and 3) add letter to mass mailing.

John asked Julie if the commission ever got anything formally on the two properties on Franklin Street. Julie said that they did and that John was out of town at the time.

Jaime stated that the commission can only delay the process and that is 30 days and then the owner can do whatever they want.

Next business: Board Terms and Election of Officers. Mary and Jaime are up for renewal. Mary will be returning, but Jaime will not be and this is his last meeting. He gave his letter of resignation for the end of April. Julie stated that the commission needs to reconfigure who will be chair, and vice-chair and that can be done next month after we are done with the appointments. Pam asked who should be asked to be on the commission. Julie stated that when the Historical Society has its meeting try and get people interested then.

Jaime passed out copies of the demolition process. Jaime thought this would be handy for new members. John made Jaime a binder full of information and Jaime will keep this. Julie will send the links for window restorations to Jaime for the Inn by the Bandstand. Jaime invited the commission to visit the Inn an hour before the next meeting. This will be 6:00 pm on May 14th.

Pam mentioned that there is a meeting on Saturday at the Fire Station in Stratham. Julie stated that she is not sure a check has been sent out for that yet, so all should be prepared to bring \$10.

Other Business: Next year's grant round for the certified local government level grants. We had talked about alternating between the survey work like we are doing this year and then doing the more project oriented topic. Members of the HDC, Patrick and Nicole approached Julie about doing something for the HDC as an educational purpose to familiarize members because like this commission, we are getting people that are enthusiastic but don't know the language. Letter of intent has already been submitted to do this. Nadine Peterson at DHR is very excited about working with us because she has been reading the newspapers and seeing that we are having a hard time. It might be a combined commission thing, but to have someone perhaps from the National Association of Heritage Commission that is not related to the town would be good.

Saturday's meeting is about who is keeping track of our history, or who is taking care of our history. The purpose is to get someone in who can charge up the energy and make people feel comfortable. Invite the public so we can recruit some new members.

Mary would like to go and look at some of the buildings in the packet that were passed out. Jaime stated that it is very interesting to visit these buildings. Pam stated that the town has several history walks. Pam will bring Mary the brochure of History Walks in Exeter from the Historical Society. She will also bring some for Jaime to have at the Inn.

With no further business, Julie motioned to adjourn, seconded by Jaime. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Herrick
Recording Secretary