

Exeter Historic District Commission  
Final Minutes  
May 15, 2014

Call meeting to Order: Chairwoman Pam Gjettum called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Nowak Room of the Exeter Town Office Building.

Members present: Julie Gilman, Selectwoman, Pam Gjettum, Chairwoman, Patrick Gordon, Pete Cameron and Fred Kollmorgen, Vice Chairman, Nicole Martineau

New Business: Sign application for 39 High Street.

Pam asked one of the new owners of 39 High Street what he is planning to do. He stated his name, and stated he is planning to keep it the same. He wants to put a new sign on. Pat asked if he have plans to fix it up later on and the owner stated that he does. Julie asked if the sign was going on the second floor between the windows and it is. The owner stated that the sign would be applied to the building from the inside. Pat asked what it would be applied with and the owner stated that he was not sure. It would be either wood or brackets. Pat then stated in order to complete the application the commission needed to know what would be used for the sign. Owner wasn't sure if commission had a preference for wood or brackets and owner was thinking of wood. Pat then stated that they always have a preference of wood. Pat asked if the wood was going to be carved or just a single surface painted wood. Owner stated single surface. Pat asked how it was going to be attached. Owner not sure but thinks with brackets coming out a little. Pat stated if it is going to be bracket mounted, we do not want it to stick out and would like a flat bracket used. The most challenging part of this is going to be the wood shakes that are on the building now. They are old and look like they are starting to disintegrate. Pat suggested that they may want to bracket underneath them, and not through them because of this. Pam stated that the Portsmouth Sign Company should know how to do this. Pat stated that there was no attachment to the application and that is why he was asking about how the sign was going to be attached.

Pat asked the owner if he was thinking of future applications, if he was planning on re-doing the siding. The owner stated that they have thought about it, but not sure because it is in the Historic District, and they are not sure what the commission is in favor of.

Julie made a recommendation to the owner that he get an opinion from the Heritage Commission for help in replacing the siding. She told him they meet once a month on Wednesday.

Julie made a motion to accept the application as agreed and Fred seconded it. All were in favor and application accepted. Pam then stated that the application has been accepted but now they can talk about details. Nicole wanted to make sure that the brackets cannot be seen because it is a very narrow sign.

Pat gave an example of what the commission would not like to see is the Verizon sign downtown. It has a bracket that sticks off the building and you can see behind it. Fred asked if the owner had an alternative instead of brackets. Owner not sure but will check with the sign company.

Nicole made motion to approve application with the use of brackets. Pete seconded. All were in favor and motion approved.

Next is the vote on the discretionary preservation easement renewal for the Barn located at 117 Linden Street. Julie stated the barn is a separate easement and has to be preserved every ten years. The owner knows how it was built and approved in previous years. They do not need the commission's approval. They would like a letter from the Town supporting their application for discretionary preservation easement renewal of the barn. Pam stated she will go by a previous letter written in 2004. The letter will be addressed to Mr. Dean. Pam stated that she could also say in the letter that the barn has been painted many times by our own artist Mr. White.

Julie stated that the commission talked last month about getting reference materials and she handed them out to the Heritage Commission last night. She has books for the commission but does not have access to them yet. These books provide information and make it easier for decisions.

Pat stated that these books might be a way to draw people to want to participate in these boards. It might be intimidating to come up in front of people and not know what they are approving because their background may not be in art history or architectural, preservation or anything like that at all. So providing these tools to them can give them a better sense that they are making an informed decision and we can use that as a recruiting tool. Julie then stated that is her object. It is all about education this year.

Fred made a motion that the Chair prepare a letter to the Town Manager recommending an extension on the discretionary preservation easement for the barn at 137 Linden Street. Pat seconded. All were in favor and motion approved.

Minutes from April tabled because commission only had March's. Pam wanted to talk about RSA 79e but Julie requested that the commission talk about this at the next meeting because she did not have the material and several other members did not either. Pat stated that Julie had sent to the Heritage Commission a discussion in plain English of how it works and she is extremely helpful for those of us who do not read legal. Julie will send this off to this commission.

Other Business: Election of Officers

Julie made a motion to appoint Patrick Gordon as Chairman, Nicole Martineau as Vice-Chair and Pam Gjettum as Clerk. Fred seconded. All were in favor and motion approved.

With no further business, Pam motioned to adjourn. All were in favor and meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Herrick  
Recording Secretary