

## Exeter Heritage Commission

July 16, 2014

### Final Minutes

Members present: Pam Gjettum, HDC Rep; Julie Gilman, Chairwoman, Kelly Bergeron, John Merkle, Mary Dupre and Faith Flythe.

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

First Business: Introduction of the board's newest member, Faith Flythe. Faith then told the members that her nickname is "Bonnie". She stated she got it from a Scottish grandmother.

John stated that the first item on the agenda is the May Minutes. After one amendment, Julie made a motion to approve minutes. All were in favor. Minutes approved.

Next on agenda is the Review of Consultant Report for the Franklin Street Study. Julie stated that the commission has to have this to the DHR by August 13, 2014. Julie also stated that the commission has to respond to Carrie and Lynn by August 6, 2014.

Julie stated that she has read through it but it was exactly what she wanted to get was the area, history and the individual properties. Pam was very impressed with the report. Kelly was also and found what she has read so far, very interesting. Julie asked the commission to turn to page 98 showing a picture with the power lines. She stated that she has been approached by citizens asking about the power lines. Julie will get a picture of 1 Franklin St. John stated that he will check to see if he has any photos. John asked if the other buildings have been taken down yet. Julie stated that they have not. Property is in the process of being sold. The buyers are also doing something different.

John asked if the commission needs an official approval for this. Julie stated it can be done as approval for the draft version of this report and survey and reserve comments for myself and John. Julie then made a motion to approve the draft of the Franklin Street Survey and any further comments on the products be referred to Nicole. Mary seconded. All were in favor and motion approved.

John stated the next thing on the agenda is for the commission to have a discussion of the 106 process relative to the removal of the Great Dam. John asked if the Town was going to go ahead with the removal of it and Julie stated they were. John stated that it is in a historical district so there is federal money involved with this. There needs to be a review anytime a historical resource is being threatened. We, and the HDC signed up as consulting parties. John stated that this is being coordinated through the Historical Resources in Concord. Julie stated that she went to the last River Study Committee Meeting DHR is the owner of this process but all of the work goes between DHR and NOAA. The final product will be an agreement between NOAA and DHR. All we will be doing as consulting parties is representing what we think should be the answer for mitigation. John stated mitigation to compensate for the loss of the historical resources. This can be physical or in the form of a monetary grant to do something else that helps the historical nature of the community. In other words, it does not have to be dam related.

Julie stated she has had a recommendation from the DHR to do this kind of area survey to resurvey the downtown historical district because we are losing so much. The dam is a big part of it. This is one of the things we can do.

The DHR will be leading the discussion about the midigation. Not sure how this will turn out. These folks and the Board of Selectmen are assuming that the River Study Committee is going to be the lead on this. John stated that they would be. Julie stated she had a little difficulty with this because the Board of Selectmen have been the leader on the project all along, coordinating with all the different groups involved, public meetings, etc. When the letter came and it stated that the Exeter River Study Committee is going to hold a public session and coordinate this and that, I was upset. Julie stated that she really thought that the Heritage Commission would get a little recognition for this part of the project. Julie stated that she has a problem with the sound of the people who want the dam removed, being the ones who lead the discussion of how to midigate that removal.

John stated that Lionel had asked him and he agreed to have the Heritage Commission coordinate the effort on this process with the Historic Commission, the Historical Society and any other consulting parties for the river site. John stated that he understood that the commission was supposed to be on top of this. Julie stated that we are. John stated that he thought the commission was under estimating the power of the DHR folks. If we come up with some recommendations they will listen to them. Julie stated that DHR will have to present our ideas to NOAH.

Julie stated she has a problem because she sits on Heritage Commission, HDC, Historical Society and Selectmen. All four are putting in suggestions. Julie said that Lionel suggested having a few sub committees. John suggested a joint meeting and invite others to this meeting. Pam asked Julie if she would like to attend the Historical Society Board Meeting and Julie will. John will represent the commission but thinks there should be more than him. Julie agreed because of conflicts of schedules. John will organize this and send Lionel an email to let him know. John then asked who wanted to be on this sub- committee. Pam will do it and Kelly offered to help out also. Julie stated that she has an HDC meeting tomorrow night and will try and get some from there.

Mary asked if the River Study Committee would be able to dismiss what somebody else said and send in their own material. Julie stated that this will not happen. This was Julie's concern because they are the leaders.

Faith asked if this was between the Great Bridge and the String Bridge. Julie stated that it was. Faith then stated that they will not be going upstream then. Julie stated that is what is written in the paperwork. Julie said she would make an argument that they should go upstream. John stated that several people have asked him why they cannot leave the penstock and the wall. You can see the profile of the dam on both sides. The paperwork seems to be addressing that and it seems it would be quite expensive. John asked if a motion was needed to form the sub-committee and Julie said she did not think so.

Mary asked if there was anything helpful for us to do. Julie stated to start brain storming. John asked if there was any more discussion on this and Julie asked how do you want to get ideas to you from the sub-committee. John stated by e-mail. As you do that, send them. John stated that we have some ideas already and the survey downtown has to include the whole river piece. John will get it started. John asked if there was any other business. Julie stated 79e. This is a tax relief incentive. What is does is when someone refurbishes their property in the historic district, they can apply to the Board of Selectmen for a tax relief. During the time of construction, the tax evaluation would remain flat.

Historic structures are buildings that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. We get involved when there is a replacement or substantial rehabilitation of a building. From 79e I-a, an owner shall submit to the governing body as part of the application, a NH division of historical resources individual resource inventory form, and a letter from the Heritage Commission. No work can be done until the letter is received.

John asked to talk about the meeting next month. It is scheduled for 8/13/14. It was decided that there will be no August meeting at this time. John will e-mail committee if commission needs to meet.

There was no further business, so Julie made a motion to adjourn at 8 pm. Kelly seconded. All were in agreement so meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Herrick  
Recording Secretary