

Exeter Heritage Commission

November 19, 2014

Draft Minutes

Members present: Julie Gilman, John Merkle, Chairman, Mary Dupre, Faith Flythe, Kelly Bergeron

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

First Business: John stated there were two months of minutes to review and approve. Both were reviewed and Julie made a motion to approve as amended. Kelly seconded. All were in favor and September and October minutes were approved.

John stated that next is the update on the Section 106 process relative to the Great Dam removal. He stated that the meeting help clear the air. There was a meeting yesterday of all the consulting parties. DHR was also at the meeting. The most interesting thing that came out of it was that this process requires a government entity to be in charge and nobody stepped up to the plate. Julie stated that she wonders about this because after the vote on the bond issue to remove the dam, this issue came up that NOAH had put the money in for the study and that was it. They were done. Their person that was working with the committee stayed in place and was going to assist in the 106 process but he was not officially doing that. He was from NOAH. Julie also stated she was wondering if there was no federal money involved, do we have to do this. Julie then stated that what came out of it was NOAH and the Army Corp. of Engineers. John stated that because of a sub permit that is going to be required, it requires the Army Corp. of Engineers to review it.

John stated that the consultants put together a schedule and it called for four or five meetings between now and March. The consulting companies submitted questions to DHR relative to the inventories and surveys they did for around the river. John stated he never saw this and neither did Julie. DHR does not want to address these changes until they find out who is in charge.

John stated that if it was any kind of interesting meeting, it was that nothing got accomplished. Julie felt the same way. Julie felt like it was just a meeting to understand there will be more meetings. She does not think the people who have not talked about this yet understand that this will come to a memorandum of understanding and it is between the federal agency and the DHR. John stated it is still an issue of cost. Julie stated they have \$30,000 and John stated it does not go very far. John stated we will wait to hear when they determine who is in charge before the next meeting. Mary asked who will make that decision and John stated he does not know who makes that decision.

Julie stated that she went to one of the Exeter River Study Committee meetings where they were talking about the Section 106 and they said for mitigation purposes, there are many different solutions and one of them was putting up a plaque or a panel. That was when Lionel came in and stated we have to start this committee for Section 106. John stated that this committee is just going to be making recommendations to the town's selectmen. John stated that Lionel asked at the Historical Society Meeting that one of us chair. Dick Hubert volunteered to chair. John stated that this committee does not have to meet more than once or twice. John stated that at this point, we just wait until the next move. Julie stated the only thing she would suggest is if this in town committee wants to get together to really get some ideas that is a possibility. This is really up to the committee. Julie stated that it was very interesting to have nobody in charge. It took two hours to find out that we do not know who is in charge. John stated that it would not hurt for committee to get together and talk about ideas.

Next John stated regarding the Winter Street Cemetery, he had a conversation with Linda Monroe and she is going to submit a proposal to us. She asked if we wanted our board involved in the preparation of that. John told her no. It would be quicker if she just does it. Julie asked when we do things for National Register, it doesn't automatically go to the State Register, are those two separate processes. John stated they are two separate processes.

Faith stated that she took Pam's suggestion and went to the Historical Society Meeting and asked for volunteers there. On the 18th, from 1 pm to 3 pm, seven or eight people came. We were able to cut down and pull up two huge piles. Parks and Recreations came and picked them up. The Friday before Pam had also suggested the commission could use a little publicity so I called Jason and it got three mentions in the paper. Faith stated that she had given John's name, Julie and Judy. Barbara wrote a very nice article about the cemetery. One of the volunteers who came could not get the stuff off the stones. Judy would like to get permission from the town for the Dufores and this lady to try and get the tar off. The Dufores have put a lot of work into the cemetery and will come back when the weather is better. John cannot authorize this. Julie stated that she needs to go before the board. Faith will let her know when and she will add to the board's agenda.

Faith stated a young lady April who is a member of the DAR applied and registered this cemetery with Wreaths Across America. She will get more specifics and send to the commission. The wreaths are \$15 each. Julie asked if the DAR will provide the wreaths. The DAR asked Faith to raise the money. Wreaths Across America ships the wreaths to you. Julie will check because the selectmen have a special budget. It is a random account of money like \$1,000 used for flags for Veteran's Day, parade and holiday parties. She will look and see if there is any money left in there to use.

Julie stated that she noticed that the stone wall on the railroad side is crumbling. She will ask Jay Perkins to look at that. He has fixed cemetery walls. Faith stated there are three spots that are bad.

Faith also mentioned that the cast iron fence on the Front Street side is broken. Feels the commission should keep track of these things. The cast iron gate going into the town pound needs to be fixed. Last note, there is a flag hanging under the American flag and it is so faded and worn, no idea what it is a flag of. Julie stated, well let's check that out. John stated that the cemetery looks very nice.

John asked Julie if there was any further on the Franklin Street Grant or are we officially done with this now. Julie stated we are officially done with it. There is a copy in the library. Julie stated that what was interesting at that meeting yesterday was Rita Walsh from VHB said we did this inventory form and now we have one in the Franklin Street area like it was their work. John agreed. Julie stated that she had to correct her and she even forgot to say DHR provided the money.

John asked if there was any other business and Julie stated there were a couple of buildings to watch out for demolition. One is Dot's Flower Shop on Epping Road. It is part of the empty lot where Great Bay Kids is going. Julie stated that she has no knowledge of the history of Epping Road and how it got demolished to what it is now. Mary asked if it is something that will start right away. Kelly stated that they want to be out of their current place and in this one by the spring. Thinks lease is up in May and they want to have the building done and ready to go. John stated that he thinks July will be the earliest they will be in. Julie stated that they will not wait that long for a demolition permit. Julie stated that the other building is in John's neighborhood. It is the white house across from Hoyt's TV Service. Julie not sure which house it is, but according to Jerry Hamel and Doug Eastman, needs to be torn down because it is so decrepit. John stated that 15 or 20 years ago, it was so bad back then, that they had to remove all the floors. It was stained and penetrated with animal urine.

John stated that he has not received any more calls for the barn or house behind the Mexican Restaurant. Kelly stated that they are coming in front of the board tomorrow. They have not officially opened up a Planning Board case yet. Kelly thinks the plan is for those two structures to come down.

John asked about meeting next month in December. Julie stated that the commission should only meet if they get one of those demolition requests. John stated that the commission should not plan on meeting next month unless you hear from me.

With no further business, John made a motion to adjourn. Julie seconded. All were in favor and meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Herrick
Recording Secretary