

Exeter Heritage Commission

October 8, 2014

Final Minutes

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

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

John started with the first item on the agenda which is the minutes of September 10, 2014. He had not seen them and neither had Julie. Pam saw them and read them, but left them at home. John stated that the minutes would be reviewed at next month's meeting.

Next item on the agenda is appointment of a Heritage Commission member to serve on a committee to review and recommend mitigation options for removal of the Great Dam. Pam stated that Lionel Ingram is trying to get a committee together and according to Section 106 and Pam is not really sure what this Section 106 is all about. Julie stated that Section 106 is part of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and she passed out copies of Section 106. Pam stated that Lionel would like someone from this committee, someone from the Historical Society one non lined person. This committee is supposed to do something to memorialize where the dam was so people can come along and see where it was. John stated that this is just the town's piece and Julie stated that it was. It is not all the consulting parties. Julie stated that Lionel is the Chairman of the Exeter River Study Committee and what he is looking for is to move this along. John stated that the DHR will be the agency working on this. Julie stated that the town is supposed to be involved in what is called the mitigation effort to replace historical resources do something that makes up for the loss of the historical resource. River Study Committee is not managing but being involved in anything dam related because they studied the river. What Lionel wants to do is have this group get together and start talking about the mitigation and come up with an idea to present to the Board of Selectmen. This is what we will work with DHR on. Pam stated that she thought there were still funds available so that something could be done, other than planting a tree. Mary asked where the funds came from and Julie said the bond on the dam removal. Pam stated that she told Lionel that she would represent the HDC Commission. Pam nominated John to represent the commission. John stated that Lionel had asked him months ago if he would get involved and he told him he would. Julie seconded the nomination. All were in favor and John will represent the Heritage Commission. John asked that everyone thinks about some ideas over the next month or two. Pam stated that she would like to keep the penstock. Mary asked if it would help to talk to the public. Julie stated that it is a requirement of the process. There will be at least one public meeting. Group has to get together first and figure out something.

Julie stated that the group is going to get together with representatives of the different bodies. Do we as a commission want to hear back from it before anything goes before the Board of Selectmen? John stated that what is discussed at the meeting should come back to this commission. John would like to see the penstock stay where a tiny section of the dam was. Pam would really like to keep the penstock because the library was built over it. Julie stated that she does not know when that kind of meeting is going to be called speaking from the board. The idea was that a general public person outside of these commissions would be the one running the meeting. Pam asked how we are to get this person and Julie stated to get the word out there and ask for a volunteer.

John then asked if he should e-mail Lionel to let him know that the Heritage Commission voted to have me represent them. Julie stated that she will send the e-mail because the board really has to appoint you.

John stated that the next item and the commission would not be discussing it right now is mitigation options for removal of the Great Dam. He welcomes everyone's ideas and thoughts.

Next was the update on the National Register process listing of the Winter Street Cemetery. John stated that he looked into this right away. John contacted Peter Michaud and he was very excited about it and thought it was a wonderful idea. He gave John some information and some of which John already knew. John went and looked at the form 1090 that needs to be filled out. Julie asked what they were looking for on this form. John stated that they give a whole criteria. John stated that a lot of the information is probably in Lynn's report. It gets a little difficult when they talk about categories and they do not list cemetery as a category. John stated that the package was very well done and easy to read. John asked if he should contact Lynn and ask her how much it would cost to do a nomination form. Julie thought that was a good idea.

Julie stated that the required training that the DHR had for CLGs, she could not attend because she had car trouble so the commission is not eligible for funds this year. We have a year to skip in granting. Pam stated that the commission could still get the estimate and get started on that and Julie agreed. Julie asked John how many pages there were to the form. There are twelve pages. Bonnie asked what the cost would be and Julie stated that she didn't know because the commission had never done one before.

Julie stated that she is putting money in the budget for the commission. The commission is supposed to have a separate fund so any money that is given to it, is swept into that fund. If we don't spend \$900, it is supposed to accumulate in this other fund. Not sure of the total right now. John asked if the commission could take contributions as well and Julie said yes.

Bonnie stated that there has been a little bit of vandalism and Judy took a photo of Tobias Cutler's stone. She will be calling someone to see if the black paint or tar can be removed. They will probably try and do that Saturday. Saturday the 11th will be a clean-up session from 1 pm to 3 pm at the Winter Street Cemetery. Bonnie stated that there is not too much trash

there. She stated that she spoke with Mike and he will pick up all the stuff that they leave there. She would like to talk to him again about weed whacking along the inside edge. It might be possible that the mowers are knocking down part of the stones. Julie stated that she actually talked to him about this before the cemeteries are not high on the priority list.

Next, John asked if there was any additional information on the Franklin Street Grant. Julie stated that they would be getting paid in about a week. Julie stated that she put the report in on it and equaled out the budget. She thanked everyone for their time sheets. The value that was given between our cash and volunteer time and something else came out a little higher than we had predicted. It is our cost to take. It is fine because we have not over budgeted. Deb Gagne who handles the grant administration at the DHR was very appreciative that we were able to put that together sooner than anybody else. John stated that this can be taken off the agenda because it is done.

John asked Julie if she wanted to talk about the HDC Training Grant for 2015. Julie stated that a couple members of the HDC heard about us being a certified local government and they wanted to do something because there is a lack of education and lack of experience of running of meetings. They want to do a grant for educators and also someone to look through our preservation guidelines, zoning ordinances and our master plan to help us update them all. There is a group, the National Association of Preservation Commissions and they have a program called Camp. They will come for three days and do this kind of thing. This will be a required activity up for the HDC and the Heritage Commission is invited to come along. They will also be putting on some public education. There will be three public projects. The first one is paint colors. Thought it would be a fun way to come in and talk about what color your house is.

Pam passed out Walking Tours of Exeter brochures and stated that the Historical Society would like to redo it. Julie stated it would be part of the grant and they would help pay for it. They will give labor and printing costs. Pam mentioned articles in the Newsletter and stated that we always need things to write about. Julie stated that they wanted to write about what the HDC is doing, not just history points in Exeter. Mary asked when the programs will start. Julie stated that there is a tentative schedule and it was supposed to start in September. We have to wait for governor in counsel to sign off on it before we can actually start doing the activities. The HDC folks, Patrick, Nicole and I will be the instigators of these things and what we are looking for from the Heritage Commission is just volunteer time when we get those things organized. Julie stated that last month when they had the Economic Development Director here and we mentioned having an app for the walking tour, he is going to find us an intern to work on that.

John stated that the commission volunteered to host the Regional Meeting this year for the HDC. Pam asked what kind of place he was looking for to host this. Julie asked how big the expected crowd would be. John stated about 30. Julie stated that it is nice to do these things in a historical building. Pam mentioned that the town hall should work. She also stated that if it is 50 or less, they fit nicely in the Historical Society. Pam also mentioned that the trouble with the Historical Society is that there is no parking. Maybe only two places on the street. Julie stated that this would be a good thing to have an article about.

Next on the agenda was the Certified Local Government Annual Report. John stated that it was very concise and brief. There was not much to it. Julie stated that she mostly has copies of agendas and who the people are.

Other Business: John stated that he has been getting a couple of e-mails relative to a building located behind where the Mexican Restaurant is, the old Ho Kong. They want to put in 14 units of condos. The individual who owns the property has been e-mailing back and forth. Kelly stated that they came to the Planning Board last week. John stated that he only brought this up because the commission will have to respond to that.

Julie stated that she was looking at the zoning ordinances and it says at the very front of the establishment of the Heritage Commission that when a project comes in that involves any demolition; it goes to the Heritage Commission first. John stated that the commission should start enforcing that. Julie is meeting with Doug tomorrow.

With no further business, John made motion to adjourn. Kelly seconded and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Herrick
Recording Secretary