

Exeter Heritage Commission

Sept. 10, 2014

Final Minutes

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

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

First Business: Approval of the July minutes. John asked if everyone had a chance to review. Pam motioned to approve them. Julie seconded. All were in favor and minutes approved.

Next is follow-up on the Franklin Street Grant Neighborhood Study. Julie passed out copies of the final survey report. She stated that the only thing different is the DHR and DOE had comments. They disagreed with our consultants about a couple of properties being eligible for the National Register. Julie stated that one of the changes was simply changing the map and showing where the Front Street Historic District really is. Julie stated that the changes were on the back of the report. Julie stated that the DHR was very impressed and the State has it in their files. The last thing in order to wrap up the Franklin Street Study is the time sheets. The Grant round for 2014 is the HDC's project for the education and public awareness and Julie stated that the commission will be involved in some of this. It will be simple things such as standing at doors and pointing people this way or that way.

The last thing on the Franklin topic is the time sheets. Time is donated so it has to be matched to the grant that was given so Julie has to document when the commission looked at these things. Julie asked everyone to look it over and sign.

Next topic is the HDC Training for 2015. Julie stated that she forgot to bring the actual application so the commission could see what it is. Julie stated the commission was awarded \$13,000 to have a consultant come from the National Association Heritage Commission (NAHC). They have a program called CAMP and they come in will review the ordinances, guidelines and all the technical things that are needed. They will make suggestions of what might need to be changed. John asked if other commissions are invited to this and Julie said that most of it is just for the HDC but we did include the Heritage Commission in that aspect. John then asked if other towns were invited and Julie said they are not. Julie stated that other communities were not invited because the price changes. If it is under ten, there is one price and if over that, a different price and it becomes more regional and we wanted to keep it more specific to just Exeter. This is the technical aspect of this. The other things are educational. We want to do some public outreach. We have come up with four public events at the Town Hall that have to do with mostly teaching people about the value of the historical features. One of the first ones is going to be paint colors. It is just going to be a fun educational thing. The speaker fee for this was donated. A company that makes the paint and a company that paints will be coming to speak about it. This even will take place in October. They also want to work on the Walking Tour. Pam stated she has a booklet on Exeter's Walking Tours, but it should be updated.

Pam talked about the Historic Society unveiling the new Lincoln plaque during the Oktoberfest weekend. Suggested Heritage Commission attend because a lot of people will be there.

John stated next topic is the follow up Section 106 process which is relative to the removal of the Great Dam. There is still nothing urgent developing with this. Julie stated that the Advisory Counsel for Historic Preservation, a separate federal agency, is involved in this if they want to be, or if they are asked. Julie was wondering if the Commission wanted to write to them and ask them to be a participant in the process. Pam asked what they could do and Julie said they will be involved in the whole step of the way when we start talking to the parties of interest. All the documentation will be addressed to DHR. John stated that the DHR is responsible for coordinating it all. Julie stated they are and also our contractor. Commission does not have to initiate anything, just be ready to respond.

Julie stated that they have shown interest in following this project, so does the commission want to reaffirm that we are interested in them.

Pam stated that this commission and the Historic District Commission ae to get together to talk about some things in regards to the dam. Julie recommended that no ideas be made here and everyone go home and think about what would memorialize the loss of the dam. Some examples that have been given are a nice bronze plaque, panels along the walkway and even a fountain. A gondola was even mentioned. It was asked if the funding will come from the town. Julie stated that it will come from the budget that was passed by the voters. Darren asked what the bill was and Julie stated it was \$1.7 million for this project. John asked if the plan to lower the water levels for the investigative work would be before the dam is removed, or remove the dam and then do it. Julie stated that they have to do it before and that is on the timeline.

John asked who would write the letter and Julie said that he could if he felt comfortable asking them to participate. John will put something together and share with Julie. He will address this letter to Mr. Wallace.

Julie again stated as a selectman rep, that everyone go home and think about ideas and asking people what they think and what they would like to see. John stated that a few people have mentioned to him that they would like the penstock to stay. John stated that as part of the mitigation, the town be forced to maintain the banks of it so that it does not become overgrown. They are totally unattractive when they get that way.

John stated that is it the end of the formal business portion of the meeting, but Bonnie wanted to talk about the Winter Street Cemetery. She feels the cemetery is neglected and needs to be cleaned up. She is trying to get people aware of it. There are a lot of trees, either dying or dead. Julie will talk to the Board of Selectmen and also Dept. of Public Works and Parks and Recreations.

With no further business, Julie made a motion to adjourn. Kelly seconded. All were in favor and meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Herrick
Recording Secretary