

Exeter Heritage Commission

May 6, 2015

Draft Minutes

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

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

First Business: Minutes of November 19, 2014 are approved and final. Minutes from March 11, 2015 will be put off until next month's meeting.

Next business is the update on the Section 106 process relative to the removal of the Great Dam. John stated that he and Pam were on the committee that was asked to represent the town's piece and then come up with ideas. There were a number of public hearings that were held and John stated that it was one of the nicest committees he has been on because it started and then stopped. Julie copied and then passed out copies of the Summary of the Great Dam Remembrance Committee Meeting held on April 1, 2015. John stated that this was the recommendations that were presented to the selectmen as to how the historical piece could be mitigated. The first recommendations provide for the headwork, which is the concrete piece that sticks up in the gears and so forth. We are asking for that to remain. It is probably at no cost because pairing it out would be the same expense. Perhaps even less because the penstock would not be involved. Julie stated that doing that would require some further hydrology studies. Pam stated that the engineers seemed to think it would work. Pam stated that the only problem is what to do with the wooden trash gate. John stated that the trash gate will not even be necessary because it will be blocked. There is nowhere for the trash to go because the hole will be blocked.

The second one is to create archival material on the history of the dam in Exeter and have that available for future research because there were some other ideas that were brought up but not acted upon. Publish a book or there would be information there. The VHB which is the engineering firm is going to keep photo records of all the stages.

Next, they talked about erecting a highway department signs, like the six of them that we have in town. The thought there was that it did not have to be that, it could be something else. The last item was to create an exhibit of the dam in the library. The library contacted John and he stated they were very receptive to it.

Some other recommendations were to publish a walking tour brochure and have it available on line on your smart devices. This would involve some expense but it is a nice idea.

John stated that there was talk about river access but several members did not think that was mitigation. John stated that this might be something the library might keep in mind when they undergo this next alteration. Also, the river walk along the banks and stairs down into the water or maybe a boardwalk. Again, these are things that do not involve mitigation.

Julie stated that she sent the letter of recommendation out to Nadine at the DHR, but has not heard anything yet. John stated that there was some discussion about publishing a book about all the dams in Exeter and may even include the mill. Pam stated that she did not know who would do it. They looked in the Historical Society and it would be a tiny book unless someone has more material than we do. Pam stated that they have a lot of pictures of the dam. There was also discussion about constructing a kiosk at founder's park with historical displays on the river. In the future have the opportunity to use this for education purposes with the school children. Part of the exhibit was talked about having it sandblasted or etched. John stated that he has since seen them and they are quite striking, but you have to have them strategically placed and view them from a distance. John stated that he thinks this part of the process worked and Pam said they could check it off now as being done. John asked if anyone had anything else to add and Julie asked if they were all going to stand around while the dam was being removed. John then stated that it was going to happen sooner or later if they hold to their schedule. They have to get it done before next spring because of the fish migrations.

Next, John asked if there was anything to update on the Winter Street Cemetery. Julie stated that the LChip has funding. Julie thought that the commission could apply to that for the National Register application, and it would actually be for the clean-up. There would be a professional stone restoration program going. Faith asked if this would be for the wall and Julie stated that it was for the actual head stones.

John asked if Lynn Monroe ever got back to the commission for the proposal. Julie asked if it was for getting the National Register, it is around \$3,000. John stated that this was less than he thought. Julie stated that she could put this in next year's budget. Faith stated that she is instantly in favor of this. Julie stated that one of the requirements is that someone has to attend the meeting on June 3rd in Concord. John then stated that the commission needs to be specific as to what they are asking for. Julie stated that is what the workshop is for. She also stated that the commission needs to put in a letter of intent before the 19th of May. Pam then asked whom do we get this money from. Julie stated that the commission was talking about two different things, the National Register and the maintenance. Pam stated that she was talking about the National Register. Julie stated that she recommend it be put into the budget. Julie thinks this will be good because the HDC is applying for \$25,000.

John asked Julie how much money she would be asking for and she does not know. This would be for the restoration. Faith stated that she would call Judy and find out from her friend because she knows where it has been done and how much it cost. Pam stated that there is an Old Graveyard Association and thought Faith was in it. Faith is not and did not know it existed. Julie will put in a letter of intent. Pam stated that she will check with the Graveyard Association.

Next on the agenda is the follow-up on the Franklin Street Grant and it is done.

Last is the Demolition Review Update. The committee took care of the building on Park Street. Kelly has pictures that she took on a drive-by one day and will send them to Julie and John. John stated that he just got another one today. This one he is involved with so he will represent the applicant. It is the Connor Farm. It is between Epping Road and Rte. 101. It is now officially in the hands of the Connor family again and they occupy it. There is an L on the back of the building that suffered damage back in the early 90s. It has gone through 15 or 18 years of neglect. Everything inside is covered in mold and is falling down. There is no foundation. The Division of Historical Resources, they did not consider it contributing to the historic value of the house because they identified the time period to be 1805 to

1850 and that part was built after 1850. Originally it was a one story shed and they added another floor to it in 1895 and the shed became living space. The State holds a preservation easement on it, so there are things that you cannot do. John will be happy to walk the commission around when they decide to do the work through, because he has the keys. The main house is not bad, it is the back section. They just found out recently that there is paneling in there that predates the house. The application is dated 4/28/15. Doug did not know how to handle it because it is a State owned property. The deed made it go private again. John told him just to keep it simple, send it to the Heritage Commission. Pam, Julie, Kelly and Faith will meet at John's house Monday 5/11/15 at 9 am for a tour of the property. John stated that there is no power on the property right now. The power company needs to replace a transformer somewhere.

Pam stated that she sent John an e-mail about the CAMP and she did not go for the second day, but they were working on reviewing lots of things, and Fred got the responsibility of going over the Demolition Review of Zoning page 5-7 and he asked if she was happy with this seven business days, seven days, seven days, twelve. John stated that this process is better than it was. It was at one time three calendar days. It is now not as much of a burden and it is working.

Other Business: John asked Julie if she wanted to talk about the CAMP meeting. She stated they really had a great two days. This meeting was put on by the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions. One issue was how our process works. It was going to be concentrated on the HDC, but the Heritage Commission was included because we should be working together very well. Julie stated they went through the process of how it comes here, what happens at the HDC level and what happens with the Planning and Building Department. They talked about changing the regulations in the application to be more user friendly. The biggest thing is that we want to re-write our regulations. Right now, they are called guidelines. Half of them say that we recommend and half of them say, you shall. So, are the guidelines or recommendations. These two days really got people motivated and wanting to do things. They made a plan of tasks that can be completed right away for the HDC. The Heritage Commission is welcome to assist.

Pam asked Julie if she would like to talk about Paint Your House Program. The presentation for this will be on the 26th of May at 6:30 pm at the Historical Society. Nicole Martineau and Julie are working on getting some more Exeter relevant pictures for the people who are doing the presentation.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Herrick
Recording Secretary