

Exeter Heritage Commission

June 10, 2015

Draft Minutes

Members present: Julie Gilman, John Merkle, Chairman, Pam Gjettum, Kelly Bergeron 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: Approval of the minutes from March and May 6th. There was no copy of the March minutes, so it will be put off until next month's meeting. Julie reviewed the May 6th minutes and they were ok. Pam then made a motion to approve these minutes. Kelly seconded. All were in favor and May 6th minutes approved.

John asked Julie if the town has been notified as to what the DHR status is. Julie stated not that she is aware of. It might have gone to the Public Works. John stated that they are scheduled to take it down in September. Stated that the process has gotten dark and you don't know what is going on any more. Julie stated that it is now between the Army Corp. and the DHR.

Winter Street Cemetery – John stated that there is nothing going on with this right now. Julie stated she went to the L Chip Conference. It went through the grant process. It was not clear to Julie where the cemetery would fall under because the primary object now is to remove the trees. The letter of intent was due Tuesday. Julie called them and asked about this project and the upkeep and protection of the cemetery. They said it would be more likely to be favorably viewed if it was about monument restoration. Julie has no information on cost for restoration. Pam stated that the NH Old Graveyard Group has all kinds of information on this. This is what they do. Pam then asked the commission what they would like to know. Julie stated to have them look at our cemetery and find out the cost for this restoration. Pam also stated that around ten years ago, the Winter Street Cemetery was fixed. John asked if the commission was in the process of having it listed on the National Register. Julie stated, not yet because we do not have the money. She will put this into next year's budget.

John asked Julie if she would help explain the next business which is FEMA money. When Hurricane Sandy hit the eastern sea board, FEMA and governors declared states and parts of states as emergency areas and divided the money up between these states for their recovery. Since those projects have been completed, there is still FEMA money. In NH it is broken down into the five counties that were affected and Rockingham is one of them. Within Rockingham county, the towns can apply for a grant for inventory, repair or survey or plan for future disasters. They have around \$450,000 to spread out. Julie was reading their website and Deb Gagney who is the grant manager at the DHR thought that we would be perfect for doing more town survey. Julie stated that talking with Deb at the L Chip Conference, it sounded like we could do an area survey. Julie stated that looking at the manual, it looks more like inventory. She passed out copies of the manual and copies of the announcement to the commission. John stated that he could not figure out the connection they could make from this. Julie stated that she might talk to the Fire Chief to see what areas are the most threatened now. She can

only think about Bell Ave. Maybe further up the river. Kelly mentioned Water Street and Julie said they do need to update the Water Street survey. Kelly mentioned about how many times the Loaf and Laddle got flooded. Pam stated that the dam is going to be gone and it is going to be a mud flat with a trickle and that is why those who were against taking the dam down, did not want to do it. It is not going to be under water anymore. Julie stated that there is very little damage in the lower level of the Loaf. Julie stated this was one of the things recommended on the 106. None of the commission could come up with any ideas. Pam and John cannot see it working here. John stated that there is no inventory in the historical resources out there. John and Pam suggested they just pass on this. Julie stated that it is town wide and she will call Deb to find out if she has any thoughts about how much damage has to occur.

Next Business: Demolition Review. John stated that he does not know of anything new or in the works right now. Kelly stated she was asked about the Sharon Drive property and wanted to know if this commission had gone out and gone through it. John stated that he had done this yesterday. Still has all the finishes on the inside. Julie asked where this was originally and John stated that he did not know and the commission needs to find this out where it came from. It definitely was not there originally. John stated that the fire department has been asked to go in and do some training. He does not think they will burn it down.

Last Item for Business: CLG opportunities. The HDC is in the process of doing one now. The one the HDC went for is the continuation of the last one to actually get our guidelines revised and turned into regulations so there is no doubt about them. Julie stated that the total project cost is \$44,000. Julie stated that the consultant doing the revisions is probably around \$20,000 so she is asking for \$30,000 to split the difference. Julie stated that next year it is the commissions. Part of the reason the HDC do this, is that it was a goal of the Board of Selectmen to revise the master plan. John asked Julie if the commission could ask for \$20,000 to carry on with this survey from the CLG money. Julie stated it was too late. John stated that maybe this could be put in the town's budget, knowing that they will need twice that for next year. Julie stated that the Heritage Commission has its own fund and can accept gifts of money and property, etc. and it is handled by the town treasurer. Money has been budgeted every year and maybe not using it from previous years. That money can go into the Heritage Commissions fund as a gift from the town. Julie stated that there is some money that has accumulated but only for the past two years and there maybe around \$1,800 in there. John stated that this money did not go back into the general fund and Julie stated it did not.

John stated that the town is going to commit a certain amount of money to the 106 mitigation and this does not mean that it will cost as much as the initial estimate. Julie stated that the original estimate was \$30,000. John stated that there maybe money that does not get spent. The commission just has to do what they were asked to do. Julie stated this would be a question of transferring funds because the funds are only for this particular purpose and thinks the \$30,000 can only be used for the 106 mitigation.

John asked if there was any other business and Kelly stated that with the reorganization of the Planning Board, they are in the process of redoing their procedures. While redoing the procedures, Kelly is looking into trying to make communication between the boards a little more present and trying to interface with other boards when needed. A common theme for the Heritage Commission has been that the Planning Board goes through an entire application and then at the very end, the applicant needs to talk to the Heritage Commission to see about demolition permits or is it of historical value. One of the things Kelly wants to do is send our agendas out to the chairs of each of the boards who may

have an interest in what is being heard. This way, the commission has an opportunity to weigh in if you know a certain application involves historical value. Kelly stated that the second part is that she and Barbara are putting together a check list of what constitutes a pre-application. We will become a little more formal when hearing a case. What will happen when the next case comes up is that the board opens the case and then we go through this check list and the board determines whether or not it is complete. She thinks part of this check list should be is there a demolition involved, is the building older than 50 years old, does the Heritage Commission want to go in and take a look at it. Include this as part of the completion process to make sure the commission gets in at the beginning and not at the end. Julie stated that when thinking about this, the Zoning Ordinances actually calls for that when anything comes into the Planning Department that involves any kind of demolition that this commission be notified first. John stated that he thinks it is very applaudable that Kelly is willing to do this. Kelly stated that her goal is to outreach to all the other boards and get those lines of communication open and get input and involvement from other boards as needed and necessary for each case the board sees. John stated that agendas for the BOA should be sent out as well. All agree that this process would be very good and helpful.

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