

Exeter Heritage Commission

October 14, 2015

Final Minutes

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

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 August 12, 2015 minutes that Pam prepared. Everyone read through them. Pam made a change in the paragraph regarding the Winter Street Cemetery. Julie made a motion to approve as amended. Kelly seconded. All were in favor and minutes approved.

Next Business is the update on the Section 106 process relative to the removal of the Great Dam. Julie stated that the DHR has come up with their conclusions, but not official yet. It is just between the Division of Historical Resources and the Army Corp. of Engineers. What they recommended was to keep most of what the Dam Remembrance Committee had come up with. Keeping the head works, having a display at the library, collecting all the documentation and pictures and photographs and putting them together. Not sure who would be doing that. Pam stated that if you go into the Historical Society, they have this. Julie stated that there was also a mention of what is at the observation of the Old Man on the Mountain. Pam stated that this would be very expensive to do. Julie stated that this is all she knows and she has not seen anything official yet. John stated that the Engineering Committee will be documenting a lot of it as it is taken apart. They will gather pieces and place in the hands of the Historical Society and someone will write a book at some point. John asked if the dam is still scheduled to come down next September, and Julie said it was still scheduled for then.

Next is the update on the status of the Winter Street Cemetery. Faith stated that the DAR had October 11th as National Service Day but she stated the date was moved to the 10th Saturday because the 11th was a holiday and she felt they would have a better chance of getting people there. There was an excellent turn out. There were several people from the DAR and Faith stated that they got more done than they did last year. She stated she e-mailed Mike to ask him to remove the piles. She stated that the American Independence Museum is having the grave/tombstone program on the 24th and then April is going to be redoing the Wreaths Across America, but she does not have the date for this yet. Faith stated that she is encouraged because more people are seeing the benefit of taking care of the cemetery. She saw two places on the budget. One is for the Heritage Commission and the other one is requesting funds. Julie stated that one is from the Public Works Department to fix the wall and it is around \$10,000. The other is what she put in for the Heritage Commission for the gravestone repairs. This is for \$21,000. Julie also stated that there is a likely chance they can get an L Chip Grant for that which would be one of the 50/50 grants because it is a project of preservation.

Julie stated that this is what happens to the budget. On the 21st we have an all-day meeting of the Budget Recommendation Committee and the selectmen sit in on it. Because the Heritage Commission and the HDC do not have any representation in the planning department, Julie will be doing the presentation. This year, the way the Budget Committee is working is there are sub-committees that review different department budgets. This year, the sub-committees are going to make more decisions

and stronger recommendations than in the past and the departments will not be coming in and making their own cases for it until it goes to the Board of Selectmen. The 21st is the all-day meeting where the sub-committees make their presentations on these things. Pam asked if Julie was asking the commission to come to this meeting. Julie stated that she was but to watch their e-mails because she is not sure what time they will be talking about that. John stated that he would be available around noon time. Julie stated that she will ask for a specific time. It will be held in the Nowak Room.

Faith stated that the tombstone tour was very good this year and she thinks they will do it again next year. Thinks it would be a good fund raiser for the young people. Julie stated that it has become one of the things they want to do every year. Bonnie has a draft letter ready to go to the Newsletter about the cemetery. It tells people who is in there, but obviously not everyone. She will be very diplomatic with this letter. Faith asked when she should send this letter and Julie told her sometime after this upcoming budget meeting. Faith said she will send everyone a copy of her letter. Pam suggested that she submit it to the Carriage Town as well.

Julie again stated that she will send everyone what she has put together for the Budget Committee.

Faith asked if a warrant article was necessary specifically declaring the selectmen the cemetery trustees. Julie stated that she looked into this and the Board of Selectmen have been acting as the trustees because we do not have any. It is an elected position and no one has run for the positions. John asked if it was for all the cemeteries. Julie said it would be. Julie stated she got this information from reading the statues. She then stated that the last trustees should have found replacements or appoint somebody to fill in the empty spots. Faith asked if we did have cemetery trustees and Pam thought that we did at some point in time. Julie stated that there is a trust fund for the cemeteries and it is \$30,000, but there are no trustees to spend it. Faith asked if the selectmen become trustees by default. Julie has not found anything that says that specifically, but she has put the question to the town attorney.

John asked about the Demolition Review Update and Julie stated there was really nothing to update. Julie had a question. The properties on Franklin Street that we already did our determination on when Lambert owned it, are we ok with just keeping that as it is. Do we want to review anymore or change the letter of determination for the new owner because it has been over a year. John stated that there really is no reason to change it. The only thing that Julie could think of was if perhaps putting in any recommendations for example keeping the street edge. This would be a design consideration. Pam stated that the commission has no say over design. Julie agreed but stated that the commission could advise them about shape or pattern. John asked if Julie had a copy of the letter. She stated she has one electronically and she will send it to John. John asked when the commission needed to act on this. Julie stated anytime because they have already indicated they are going forward with action on the property. Pam would also like a copy of the letter.

Other Business: Julie stated that she never got to talk to anyone about the Tatarsal Building and she has a meeting with the principal fairly soon. She will do this in a delicate manner and she did not do it before the deadline.

Julie stated that at the next meeting she would like to go over the RSA 79E that was voted in last March. It is a tax relief for people doing work in a historic district or designated area. For the commission, this means Columbus Avenue and downtown area. Pam asked what this tax relief was for. Julie stated for any commercial, construction or change and it does not have to be in a historical district. As far as Julie

understands, the RSA refers all projects through the HDC. Julie will handle the meeting next month because John will not be attending.

With no further business, John made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 pm. Julie seconded. All were in favor and meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Herrick
Recording Secretary