

Exeter Heritage Commission

April 13, 2016

Final Minutes

Members present: Julie Gilman, John Merkle, Chairman, Pam Gjettum, Mary Dupre

Chairman Merkle called meeting to order at 7:05 pm at the Exeter Historical Society, 47 Front Street.

Business: Update on signage when the dam is removed. The commission had several photos and maps to choose from. Rita Walsh was present and she spoke. Rita stated that she feels it is open to whatever the commission would like to do and she realizes that there are budget restraints. She stated that the original idea was to have a sign on the outside near the dam. It was initially envisioned as a metal sign, but the NH Division of Historical Resources said that they do not like that particular sign to commemorate things that are gone. The idea was then can it be something like that is metal and just has text. She stated that this was the way it was envisioned after all the discussion about it. Rita then stated that because the commission wanted signage with photographs, she then researched other photos. Rita told the commission that the sign should not be less than 2 feet by 3 feet and it could have two posts supporting it or even four. She stated that the nice thing about them is that they are pretty flexible and not too expensive. There are only two companies that make these signs. They are made of high pressure laminate. The price depends on the size of the sign more than anything. Rita stated that she thinks they run about \$2,000 to \$3,000 each. She stated what is nice about these is that the high pressure laminate does really last a long time. She thinks they might have a 15 year life span. If something happens to the sign, it can be redone. She stated that if the commission wants pictures and maps, then the high pressure laminate is the way to go. It is the longest lasting and cheapest that the Historical Society has found. She feels this is the way to go and because it will be outside, it has to be durable.

Pam asked if the \$2,000 price included the stand and Rita said it was not. She stated that for the frame and the post, around \$3,000. She does not think that the installation should be that much. She also stated that a 2' x 3' is the smallest the commission should go with. The 3' x 5' that was originally the size for this project, is too big. John asked if the commission was trying to commemorate the dam being taken down or that there have been dams here since the 1600s. John then stated that there will be a display in the library so it all does not have to be shown outside. Rita stated that where the sign will go is a factor in what you want to say on the sign. Rita stated they have graphic designers who can judge size and what colors look best outside.

The commission continued to look and pass around pictures and maps that were on the table to decide what they want on the sign. The commission does not want the sign to say too much because people will not stand around and read it. John asked if the DHR has to sign off on this and Rita stated that they don't have to sign off, but review it. Julie made her recommendation that the outside sign reference the current dam. John stated that there could be a map there too with information on it. He also stated that it would be nice to tell the whole story. Pam stated that she would like to put something on the sign about the Mill because it is the reason the dam is still there. John asked if the plan was to do the etched glass as well. The answer is no. The cost would be very expensive. Julie stated that the library was planning to do an addition and perhaps the etched glass panel could be done then.

The Historic Society will be taking pictures of the dam demolition. Julie made a recommendation that the committee wait on the final design of a panel signage until they can look at more pictures. Julie then stated that the committee now has several ideas to think about. Rita stated that the graphic designer on a signage 2' x 3' prefers 150 words plus pictures and captions.

Rita told the committee that there are only two companies that make these and they are Isom and Fossil Inc. Julie stated that they could have one of the panels on one of the landing walls in the library. Pam stated that there is a glass section right by the circulation desk where you can look down and see the stairwell. John then stated that it could be made successful by having a folder available at the desk. Julie asked what the thought was about having individual photos and captions in the stairways. Rita stated that this idea would be a lot less expensive. Julie said the commission has a good beginning for this signage. Rita will get back to the commission in June.

Julie then stated that she has no other business and John asked if he could ask a few questions. He asked if Kelly was still a Planning Board Representative. Julie said she was but they switch over four positions in May or June and she thinks she will not remain a rep. John then asked how the All Boards Meeting went. Julie stated that it went pretty well. Julie told John that he should have gotten the minutes from it, but she will send them again. They will be meeting again in June. They came out with some homework and one of them was to figure out how to get training. There were a lot of good ideas and one was getting child care. Julie then stated that they have not assigned anyone to the Steering Committee. The commission's next meeting will be May 11th.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Herrick
Recording Secretary