

Exeter Heritage Commission

May 16, 2017

Final Minutes

Members present: Julie Gilman, Kelly Bergeron, Pam Gjettum, John Merkle, Chairman, Laura Fay

John Merkle, Chairman called the meeting to order in Doug Eastman's Office in the Exeter Town Office Building.

John asked who the commission was missing and Julie stated her mother. She then stated that her mother has retired, but is doing ok. Kelly stated that she will miss her edits. There was one in every group, and she was the one for the Heritage Commission.

Business: There was no approval of March minutes because there was no meeting with a full quorum. Next on the agenda was the Winter Street Cemetery project update. Julie stated that the commission has selected a very enthusiastic person for the project. His name is Francis Miller and he is very experienced. Julie stated that he is very open to the educational aspect of what will be needed and he is the only one of the three that the commission interviewed that actually visited the cemetery. Julie then stated that the commission has two years to get this done with that part of the grant. Francis gave Dave Sharple, Town Planner, his scope of work and he will schedule some time in July or August to start. Julie then stated that what the commission will need to do is advertise it to get some volunteers. Francis is also doing the survey. One of the things that Julie came up with for the consultants was they would have to go out and look at the stones to see what shape they are in and this was not part of the original plan. Dave Sharple called LCHIP and told them about this and they thought this was a good idea. Julie stated this changed the scope, but will have the same amount of money. Julie stated that she will go onto the Conservation Commission website because they seem to have a good way of getting their words out for volunteers. Pam stated that many of the members are elderly, but still raring to go. They would like Mr. Miller to come and speak to them. Pam stated that she gave them his e-mail so they can work this out themselves.

Next is the Master Plan, Historical Resources update. John stated that he put this on the agenda because it was the last thing he was involved in before he went away. Pam stated that they are re-doing the master plan. She stated that there was a big storyboard as you came into the town office building. Pam is on this committee and one of the things they are interested in is stewardship. They are talking about historic resources. Pam then read from a couple of pages of historical resources she brought. She then passed it around for each member to see and read. Pam stated that there will be an information meeting on June 14th at the high school. It will be held in the cafeteria. People will be invited to come in and go from table to table and they will get little beans. At the end, they can put their beans into whatever they like. Pam encourages the commission to come and put their beans into the historic resources. Pam will be at the historic resource stewardship table passing out beans, along with candy and applications for the Historical Society. Julie suggested that Pam pass out volunteer forms, as this would be a perfect place to have them. The time of this will be 6 pm to 9 pm.

John asked for update on the Town Wide survey. Julie stated that the commission wanted to continue with the Park Street area, but they did not get the grant. John asked if they gave a reason for not giving us the grant and Julie stated that a lot more towns applied. Julie stated they had many projects to choose from, and the commission's was not one of them. John asked if the commission wants to try

doing it again, and Julie stated she thought they should because they want Exeter mapped and surveyed. John then asked if they could ask the town to chip in to leverage things. Julie stated they could do that.

John stated that Laura wanted to talk about maps. She wanted to know if there was anything they could do outside of the grant. Julie stated that volunteers would be fine, but if they wanted to go beyond that, they would need to register and have a certified person. John stated that they are not asking for a mapping survey, but an area survey now. This is not the first one because they did Franklin Street. Pam brought copies of the 1802 map and passed them out the members. She also passed out copies of the 1845 map that has not changed much. Pam stated that the Cass Street area is one of the oldest ones. Julie stated that the commission had talked about doing a walking tour and maybe they should start to figure out where they want to go. Perhaps it is not going to be a walking tour, but maybe just a building history walk. Laura stated that it would be good to walk up Green Street and down Cass Street and enjoy some of those old houses. John stated that it is hard to get volunteers to do some of this. He stated this was Lynn Munroe's concern. Julie stated if they wanted to use the information further, they would have to get it nationally or recognition, it has to be done by more than volunteers.

Julie then asked if they wanted to figure out what buildings they wanted to map out or touch on in terms of the walking tour. John stated that they could expand that. Laura asked if they had grant areas that the walking tour touches. Julie stated that the Historical Society has two. Julie suggested that perhaps the commission's next meeting should be a walking tour. All members agreed on doing a walking tour, and they decided on Thursday 5/25/17 at 4 pm. It should only take about one hour and they will start at the bottom of Green Street. John stated that the commission could exchange ideas via e-mail and then have something for the next meeting. John stated that he thinks word of mouth is going to be the most effective way to get the information out about this tour. Pam stated that this tour will be a planning tour.

John stated that there is a demolition meeting tomorrow morning at 9 am. Pam passed out information on this. The property to be demolished is not occupied at this time.

Other Business: John asked if there was any other update on the mitigation of the dam. Julie stated that there was not. The public works had put together money for whatever mitigation the commission was going to finalize, but they also had to do a letter of something MR which they deemed more important. John asked if it at least was moving forward and Julie said it was. Julie then stated what the commission needs to do is decide what exactly they want to have on the panels they talked about in the past and what they want on them. Julie stated they will need some graphic design prices and materials as well. Julie will talk to Paul the project manager.

With no further business, Julie made a motion to adjourn. Kelly seconded. All were in favor and meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Herrick
Recording Secretary