

Exeter Heritage Commission

December 19, 2017

Draft Minutes

Members present: Julie Gilman, Kelly Bergeron, John Merkle, Chairman, Jay Myers, new member

Call meeting to order: John Merkle called meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Wheelwright Room in the Exeter Town Office Building.

Paul Visich, Town Engineer was present and Nicole, Preservation Planner from VHR. Paul gave an overview of the Great Dam for new member Jay. One solution was to put a written sign, similar to one of the highway marker signs at the dam. There were to be displays in the library. The biggest one with this is etched glass. It would have a picture of the dam on it. Nicole stated that there is also a component of the library display that is 8 to 10 photographs recommended by the Heritage Commission. She brought some examples for the commission to pick from. Paul then stated that the commission met individually at the library to choose a window. When VHB went back to replicate what the dam use to look like, the other window that was not chosen actually showed more of the dam and windows were switched.

Nicole stated that DHR wants the date line removed because it looks too much like a graveyard marker. Julie stated that she has no problem with removing this line. The other members were ok with it as well. Paul then stated that the next phase of this is where to put this sign. Julie stated that VHR wants to be there to help choose the spot. Paul did not know that. Julie stated it was in the agreement.

Paul stated that they were trying to figure out where the sign could go so that you could read it, look at the river and see part of the dam. Paul showed the commission an air view of the dam. He pointed out the Penstock area. There is seating there. This is the same location that VHB said would probably be the best place for it. Paul stated that he thought about having it closer to the main sidewalk. However, there is the New Founders Park sign that is right at the conjunction and would be in the way of that. He stated that it seems to be a good spot and there are park benches there. Julie then stated that her first thought was when the sign idea was mentioned is that the entrance to that park and the whole Pleasant Street side is not really the entry to the park or the entrance that people use the most. They come in off the bridge. Julie stated her thought would be to have it somewhere near the Great Bridge. Paul stated that the good news is that nothing has to be decided before the end of the year. John stated that he would like to have a look at it in the daylight. Kelly stated that she is in favor of either location. She said Paul's location is good because there are benches there. She then stated that Julie's point was that a lot of people do walk over that bridge and look at the river so that would be a good place for a sign as well. She stated that if the sign at the entrance could be removed, then she would agree that would get more traffic and viewings. John stated he would go along with this spot too, because it has access to High Street. Paul stated that at this point, High Street seems to be the better alternative depending on the signs. Jay asked what the size of the sign was. Nicole stated that the sign would be 20 x 29.

Nicole brought a full size of the technical drawings. The major elements of this as expressed by the commission, a technical drawing so people can understand how the pieces of the dam worked.

Nicole had an example of the sign. She stated that the major element of it was that they wanted a technical drawing. They wanted people to understand how the pieces of the dam worked. Along with the technical drawing, they included the map that was requested. They did an inset to show where the dam was located. They did not want to leave the Exeter Manufacturing Company completely out of it, but they also did not want to make it all about the Exeter Manufacturing Company. Being able to

introduce the Mill Building by using one of the older photos that was chosen was good. Paul stated that before it was just going to be the photographs and they were able to move the budget around enough to do the interpretive panel. Nicole stated that the wording went through a few rounds of review to make sure at least on their end, they were presenting a level of information that was comfortable and yet informative. John asked where this would be going. Nicole stated that it would be put in the stairwell. The idea was that it serves as a very good narrative ark because if you start with the panel and as you go upstairs, you get the individual photos. A few things have come up since the stairwell suggestion. Their graphic team suggested that perhaps it might hold up in the stairwell if people are reading it. Nicole stated that there is the etched panel and the technical drawing. They fit together fairly well as a pair. They took a look again as to where the etched glass is going and there is actually space on the wall next to it. They will figure out what to do with the photos because they are more of a stand alone. Nicole then stated that Paul had a good idea that when you enter the library, one of the walls at the top has adequate space to put it and still serve as somewhat of an intro. These are a couple of ideas and now they would like to get the opinion of the commission. Julie stated that it is tough. Nicole stated there are pros and cons to both locations. They all seemed to like the idea of having it next to the etched glass. The commission wants a black background on the photos. John would like the black background without the white border with it. Nicole stated that it could be cut to be borderless. Jay stated that he likes the black as well. Jay asked Nicole where these photos were going to be displayed. Nicole said the idea was that they would be going up the stairwell. They are moveable, so they could go in other places in the library. John then asked what decisions have to be made before the end of the year. Paul stated wording on the photos. John asked if DHR needed to approve this and Julie and Paul said they do not. Paul stated they will be looking at it though next week. Julie likes black background and white text. Paul then wanted to review. He stated that one of the stipulations was to give the Historical Society any documents they had uncovered or researched. The outdoor sign is still being decided where it will go. He stated the commission likes the idea of the etched glass. The window has been chosen and now it is just a matter of making it happen. The next thing is the panel. Paul stated the commission likes it. Lastly, the photos. Nicole will make another copy of them with different backgrounds and give to the commission. The text approvals are due by the end of next week. Next topic is the budget. Julie stated that there is a Heritage Commission budget to use for whatever they find useful. Each year, in order to keep the money they need for grants, they need to vote to move whatever monies are left at the end of the year into the Heritage Commission budget. If this is not done, the money goes back into the general fund. Julie stated they need a motion to transfer funds from fiscal year 2017 for line item 01419103065022 remaining through this fiscal year. Kelly made a motion to move this into the Heritage Fund. Jay seconded. All were in favor and motion approved to move funds. John then asked if the commission was all done with Winter Street Cemetery for now. Julie stated yes, for the season. They will be doing more activity in the Spring. There is a preliminary report of what has been done. Julie has not seen it yet, but when she does, she will send it around to the members of the commission. Julie gave an overview to Jay of what was happening with the cemetery. John stated that this is the second oldest cemetery in the town. Julie stated that the LCIP has not put them on their tour list yet, but probably will do this in the Spring.

Next, John stated that he looked through the Master Plan and thinks it was nicely done. He was not sure if there was anything the commission wanted to discuss about it. Kelly stated that she has not had a chance to look at it yet. John stated that it is not the whole document, just the ground work.

Discussion regarding Cass/Park Streets Historical Resources Survey. Julie brought paperwork on this for the commission to look over. It is not due until January 18th.

Next on the agenda were the minutes from August and September 2017. None of the members had copies of either.

Demolition Review Update. Nothing to review as yet. Jay asked what the commission has to do with demolition. Julie stated the commission has the duty to make an opinion on something that is going to be demolished. In the Historical District, this is any building or structure that is over fifty years old. The commission has a month to deal with it, but they have a certain amount of time to go and view the property and then give an opinion as to whether it is a resource they need to keep or not.

There will be no meeting in January.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Herrick
Recording Secretary