Exeter Heritage Commission 2/20/2018 7:00 pm

Members in attendance: Julie Gilman, Pam Gjettum, Maura Fay, Jay Myers

New Business

Demolition review for 16 Kingston Rd.

This is the site being proposed for a cell tower. There is a house on the property, Pam will look into the age but it is more modern so probably not something that would be considered a resource the town wants to conserve. This project has FCC requirements that led to a review by the Department of Historic Resources under section 106 to determine whether it would disturb a historic area. DHR passed it to the Heritage Commission as part of their review process. The property was at one time a brick yard. There is no knowledge of it having been part of any Native settlement in the area according to Pam. Based on the information we have, Julie's assessment is that the town would not lose any resources by permitting the demolition.

Demolition review for 103 Epping Rd.

Julie explained the process of demolition review to Jay as a new member of the commission. The review is to identify whether there are unusual/historic features to the building that would make it something the Town should consider preserving. Details like woodwork, foundation, windows and other architectural features are considered. Julie and Pam have driven by and assessed the outside somewhat, they both felt it was constructed perhaps in the 1940s. Pam will do research on the property to see if she can find out more. Commission members Jay, Maura, and Julie are available to meet at the property to review on Friday 2/23 at 8:45. Pam will contact the owner to arrange it.

Winter St. Cemetery

Francis Miller from Conserve ART LLC has submitted his report for the first phase of the cemetery restoration project which happened in October 2017. Work will continue on the next phase sometime in the Spring when weather permits. Julie shared that Exeter was the first town to receive L-CHIP funding for a cemetery project, and it is likely more towns will follow as they see opportunities to renovate historic cemeteries with grant funding. There will need to be a discussion about tree removal at some point, which can be paid for with some of the remaining funds allocated to this project. The 'grove' of pine trees and some other scattered large pines are slowly dying, are damaging the stones with their root systems, and are a hazard to cemetery visitors. Due to the wall surrounding the cemetery and the need to protect the gravestones, tree removal will be difficult, but it is something the L-CHIP team recommended due to the hazards mentioned.

Announcements

Raynes Barn has been listed on the State Register of Historic Buildings. Kristen Murphy, Town Natural Resources Planner, asked whether we might want to do a joint celebration with the Conservation Commission and Heritage Commission. She will attend our next meeting to discuss possibilities. All members were in favor of the idea.

Minutes

Members are not receiving emailed minutes of Heritage Commission meetings. Julie will check with Barb to see about getting that started. It is helpful to have minutes ahead of time to review so that we can vote on them at each meeting. Currently have 4 meetings' minutes to approve.

Respectfully submitted by Maura Fay, 3/2/2018