

Heritage Commission

February 19, 2019

Final Minutes

Members Present: John Merkle, Chairman, Julie Gilman, Pam Gjettum, Jay Myers

Call Meeting To Order: John Merkle, Chairman, called meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Wheelwright Room of the Exeter Town Office Building.

First Business: The approval of the January 22, 2019 meeting minutes. The members reviewed the minutes and had no amendments. John made a motion for approval. Pam seconded. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Next is the update on Park/Cass Streets Surveys. Julie stated that the Town Planner had spoken to the commission last month. There is really nothing for the commission to look at now. The Preservation Company is going out and doing their things. She has not seen anything yet. John then asked the members if they had any questions. Julie stated that she was not at last month's meeting and said that the section by Park Street was not included and now it is. Pam stated that it sounded as if it was included. What they are not going to do is every single house. John stated that for the Town Report, he sent in a map and he did not get any information before he sent it in. It is John's understanding that it is all one piece.

The next item on the agenda is the HDC Exeter Preservation Plan Grant request. Julie stated that this application has been submitted and they should hear back soon and it is at The Division of Historical Resources for review. This is one of the things that the State Historical Preservation Plan would like every town to do. To come up with their own 10 year plan of preservation, guidelines and recommendations that they can show home owners that they can do to preserve homes or commercial buildings. Also, an outline of what municipal buildings would like to approach in some way. It is recommendations of tools that people can use to preserve the town. History of the town, history of some architecture. She looked at an example in the mid west that was really quite nice, showing different periods of architecture. It also had recommendations for the appropriate tools to update your home. John asked Julie when she expects to hear from them and Julie stated that she thinks around the end of March. John then asked if anyone had any questions and there were none.

Moving on to discussion of VHB request for comments for the Granite Bridge Project. John stated that he emailed the site where you can actually download the documents. He had a hard copy that has three sections for the commission member to look at. John said that he went through it, not all of it. It is essentially data and the historical assets. He did not see any archaeological as a part of this. He said there were some maps in there that indicated where the photos were taken. It is a complete line from Manchester to Stratham so there is a lot more material then what the commission needs to see. Pam stated that this is exactly what they did when they were enlarging 101. That is why they had it all set to go. Julie stated that this is probably why the archaeological section is not in this, but they must have it. It was documented back when 101 was expanded. John stated that in the application, the historical resources are being documented and are  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile from 101. They do not have any drawings showing exactly where the pipeline is going. There are no physical structures only the transition of where it hits

the river. Julie said that because they are exactly going through Stratham, they are not going to be doing under the river. They had been talking about doing a deep directional drilling way down to cross the river. They and the Town signed an agreement with Liberty Utilities to put a monitoring station on property in town so they do not have to go through Stratham. They now will not have to dig down under the water. John said he does not know where this project is, but they have been asked to comment on it by The Division of Historic Resources. Until the commission sees the actual plans, we are not going to be able to do that. In the meantime, enjoy the reading. Julie stated that there is plenty of information on every other town and not very much on Exeter. Pam stated that there is some. John said that with these types of utility expansions, there is not a lot of opportunity for public input and he does not know what the town's policies are for it. Julie stated that they have not done this before for a big utility like this. The Site Evaluation Committee at the State's level need to review the whole thing. They hold public hearings and they are not well advertised. That is the problem. The commission will have to keep a watch on that for now until something changes in their process. Liberty Utilities has itself gone out and had some public hearings, but they were not advertised either and the turnouts have been small. Epping is the most concerned about it. You hear different stories as to how much has been welcomed from the different communities. We just have to watch for the Site Evaluation Committee. Julie is not sure when they are starting. It will be a long process. John stated that he is not sure this will be on the agenda for next month's meeting.

Next is the update on the rose Farm demolition. Julie stated that this has been stalled but they are definitely going to take down the two buildings the commission would like to preserve. Looking at the drawings, Julie stated that she does not see any way around it without re-engineering of the entrance way. She said they were interested in refurbishing the bricks that the commission thought was a good example of the kind of surface of the colls from the damaged bricks. They gave a suggestion of using the bricks for some kind of surround structure around the spring. John then asked the members if they had any questions. Jay stated that the commission was concerned about keeping the buildings because of the refurbished bricks and the architectural facade it created. Does the recommendation meet our interests. Julie stated that it depends on what they are going to do and that is why the commission wanted them to come in and talk as a whole.

Other Business: John stated for demolition requests, the commission has to act on them if the building is over 50 years old. He then stated that nothing has come through. Julie stated that Brad's Auto Body will be demolished and they just heard about this because they went to the Planning Board. The commission can expect an application from them.

John said there was nothing else on the agenda and called for a motion to adjourn. Julie made the motion. Jay seconded. All were in favor and meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Herrick  
Recording Secretary