

Heritage Commission

March 20, 2019

Final Minutes

Members Present: John Merkle, Chairman, Pam Gjettum, Jay Myers, Maura Fay

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 February 19, 2019 meeting minutes. John asked if everyone had time to review the minutes. They had and there were no changes. Pam made a motion to accept the minutes. Maura seconded. All were in favor and minutes approved.

John then stated that most of the things on the agenda without Julie, the commission is not going to get to far on. John then stated that he has not heard anything else on the surveys, only that they are in process. Maura asked if they had any expected check in points. John does not know. Pam asked John if he knew anything about the Preservation Plan Grant and he stated that he did not. Pam knows what they did, but she has not heard anything either. John then asked Pam if she applied for it and she said that he did. Pam said that she had not heard that her church got listed as a state historic building until someone called to congratulate her. John asked if it was a state register, and it is. He stated that it was unusual and that is handled by DHR. John stated that he does not know where to go with some of these discussions because Julie is not present and she is key to many things.

Jay just asked a quick question to refresh his memory. He asked what VHB stood for. John said it is the initials of the company that is working with Liberty Properties for the Granite Bridge Project. John has had no further input on Rose Farm either. Pam stated that she thinks Rose Farm is under litigation at the moment. Maura stated that they have not applied for any permits through the state, so it is unknown what their status is. There are steps they could have taken. Jay asked if anyone has heard from Brad's Auto Body and John said no one has. Jay stated that he had a couple of thoughts outside of the agenda. He asked where the commission was with the Ioka. At one point, the commission was going to draft a letter and then it was tabled because somebody was going to approach Mr. Lewis. He is using the marque again to advertise his Kensington business. John stated he thinks Doug upstairs in Planning knows a little more than they know right now. They are giving him some room to negotiate. Maura stated that it would be nice to know what is going on. Pam stated that somebody cut down the tree that was growing out of the roof. John stated that the town periodically has to have access to that for inspections. Doug Eastman from time to time has to go in to make sure the exit is functional.

According to Doug, it wasn't in any different state than it was two years ago.

John stated that he did want to bring something up. When you go past Fort Rock Farm and you go under the bridge and you start to go up the hill, there is a barn on the right hand side. It had a blue tarp over it for years. It looks like it is ready to go. Jay stated that he just went by it today. He thinks there is a hole in the roof and the tarp was covering it and now it is shredded and destroyed by weather. John stated that he thinks he should have a discussion with Doug Eastman about it. No one is sure what they can do about it. Pam stated that perhaps Doug could find out who owns it and tell them that there is a barn preservation program. John will look into this.

Jay would like to mention one last thing. He stated that at one point, the commission was discussing parts of the Master Plan. Ear marking parts to decide whether we needed to do something with it or communicate with another committee. He wanted to know if anything has been done with this. Pam stated they were going to meet with HDC which is actually meeting this Thursday night if you would like to attend. Maura then stated that they were talking with Christin Murphy to do some kind of collaboration around the Raines Barn and do we need Christin to come back and restart that conversation. John stated that he met with Bill Campbell and Christin together and he called Beth Thomas at the Preservation Alliance. She has not gotten back to him yet. Both Bill and Christin are interested in seeing it getting used, but the town has put some restrictions on it. It has limited parking. The options are really pretty minimal. They were scheduled to have an event out there in January. Pam stated it was the same deal that they had with the Pumpkin Festival. There is no place to park and there is no bathroom. Jay asked what the event was in January and Pam stated that she thought it was sledding. John stated that was the other thing. They do not want people out in the field in the summer time.

With no further business, John asked for a motion to adjourn. Pam made the motion and Jay seconded. All were in favor and meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Herrick
Recording Secretary