

Heritage Commission

April 16, 2019

Final Minutes

Members Present: Julie Gilman, Select Board, Pam Gjettum, Jay Myers, Maura Fay

Call Meeting To Order: Julie Gilman called meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Wheelwright Room of the Exeter Town Office Building.

First Business: The approval of the March 19, 2019 meeting minutes. Julie asked if anyone had any comments or changes and there were none. Pam made a motion to accept the minutes. Jay seconded. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Next is the update on Park/Cass Streets Surveys. Julie stated that they are still running and doing their research. They have not seen any progress. The State has not asked for anything yet. Maura asked if there was any kind of timeline to expect to hear back from them. Julie stated we can ask anytime and she believes the timeline ends in December. Julie will ask for an update for next month's meeting. Request for comments on the telecommunication project. Jay asked if they were building a tower or just adding a tower. Maura stated that it looks like they are just adding antennas to the smoke stacks. Julie stated that they have no comments because it is just adding on to something that they already know about and have commented on. Pam asked if they wanted a vote or a formal letter. Julie stated they should vote that they have no additional comments from previous applications. Pam made a motion that the commission have no additional comments on the previous application at Exeter Mills. Jay seconded. All were in favor and motion approved.

The next discussion is on the telecommunication project on Cross Road. Julie stated this was a cell tower site that was approved by the legislative body a couple of years ago. This is in a sand pit by the Transfer Station. Julie looked up the height and it is around 156 feet. They are proposing four rows of antennas, which had to be negotiated down on the one on Kingston Road. The commission discussed where it was going to be. Pam stated that this project is not tearing down any historical property. Julie stated that the only thing for the commission would be if they think it is a sensitive area for need of any artifacts. Pam has not heard of any out there. Julie stated there are along the river, but not that far from the river. Pam asked if the town gets paid for the use of it. Julie said they were getting paid, but she could not remember the amount. They are not buying it. They are leasing it from the town. Maura stated that it will be at the far end of the Transfer Station. Maura then stated that the commission's input would only be if it impact something sensitive. Pam stated that the only impacted is that the residents at Riverwoods are not getting their cell phone service. Julie stated that someone may have instigated it, but it is not their proposal. It is a cell phone company that came in. The residents want Verizon, but the cell phone company can pick anyone they want and it might not be Verizon. The commission has no problems with this project.

The next discussion is the HDC Preservation Plan Grant request. Julie stated that this was something they were going to work on together because the commission needs input for the Preservation Plan. It

is a ten year plan of what they want to preserve. It is instructor telling people how to preserve their places. This is stalled at the State because the Department of Interior that provides funding has not told them how much money they will be getting. Julie is guessing that it will be stalled for a while and there is no news on it.

The VHB request for comments on the Granite Bridge Project, Julie stated that they do not have the materials and she would like them to come in and tell them the extent of what they are doing. Julie will be asking for this or have them come in and show us what they are doing. Julie also stated that even at the Selectman level, they have not seen where the project lies.

The last discussion is on the update of the Rose Farm demolition. Julie stated that they have not contacted the commission since they told them over the phone, the recommendations to which they said no, they were not going to do it. Julie also stated that she asked the project manager to talk to the commission about mitigations. They played phone tag a bit and nothing else and it has been months. Pam mentioned that someone told her that the anti-Rose Farm group had taken them to court. Julie stated that this is process and had to provide lots of information. Julie states that this is where she gets a little concerned. Because there is a process outlined in the Zoning Ordinance and even with their agreement that the commission was not held to that timeline, Julie is not sure they have that in writing. At this point, they have gone beyond the thirty day time limit and because of this, Julie is not comfortable at this time making any recommendations. She would like to consult with the attorney who is looking at the whole thing and tell him what the commission has been through and what he recommends as far as making a decision. Jay then stated that as the Heritage Commission, they did not get anything in writing or give them anything in writing. Julie stated the commission has not yet because there has not been a meeting were they talk about mitigation. They have only done the site walk. Pam stated that was back in October. Julie will take to Doug and the Town Manager as to where to go from here.

Demolition update at 319 Epping Road. Julie stated that she, John and Pam went to see it. It is in pretty sad shape. It had a quality for the time it was built, but it was pretty well hidden or abused. Pam stated that it has been empty for at least the past ten years. Jay asked when it was built and Pam stated around 1920.

Jay still had a question about the status of the loka in terms of communication with the owner. What is the town doing to reach out maybe by a letter. Julie stated that they were advised by the HDC not to send a letter because they thought it was antagonistic. Julie just put it on the shelf. The Economic Development Director would like them to do something. Julie will bring it out again. She stated that the town reaches out through Darren, herself or residents who know Mr. Lewis. They are just not getting any response anymore. There were a couple of offers made on the building. They were good ones, but just no response. Julie said that when the loka has been closed before, there had been talks about that the town should just buy it. That would mean that the town would have to flip it.

With no further business, Pam made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 pm. Jay seconded. All were in favor and meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Herrick
Recording Secretary

