

1 Heritage Commission

2
3 June 18, 2019

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5 Draft Minutes

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8 Members Present: Julie Gilman, Select Board, Jay Myers, John Merkle, Chairman, Pam Gjettum
9 Also present were Jordan Dickerson, Energy Committee and resident John Donnell

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

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14 First Business: The approval of the May 15th minutes. John asked if everyone had a chance to look at
15 them. John had a few changes. Pam made a motion to approve as amended. Julie seconded. All were
16 in favor and minutes approved.

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18 Next is the discussion on the Park/Cass Streets surveys. Some of the members went through the
19 neighborhoods. Jay stated that Maura has a master map that she wanted him to share with the
20 commission. There are circles on it which means they need a letter mailed. Jay stated that other than
21 that, they canvassed the entire place. Jay stated that some residents were receptive and some not so
22 much. They all got letters and were politely asked to participate. Jay then stated that Maura gave him a
23 photo from the Exeter Flower Shop owner showing that part of the neighborhood. He gave the photo to
24 the commission and he is very interested in participating. The picture gives the sense of what that
25 corner of the neighborhood looked like. The owners of the house that is on the corner, the woman was
26 really receptive to the letter and stated that they had just moved in not too long ago and her husband is
27 interested in the history of the house. Julie asked Jay if he knew what the date was of the photo that he
28 brought. He does not know the date of it. Pam stated that the Historical Society has photo files and
29 they are filed by street.

30 John had a copy of an obituary that he acquired from 1905. It is for George Gilman. The commission
31 will keep these items and give them to Lynn.

32 Jay asked how they would go about if they need to mail letters out. John stated that he could do it and
33 wanted to know if there were addresses. Jay stated that he could figure it out from the circles on the
34 map that Maura gave him. Some of the buildings are apartments. Julie stated that Jay should speak
35 with Janet who is the Deputy Tax Assessor to find out the owners. John then stated that he can stuff the
36 envelopes and they can mail them out. It is official business, so Barbara can probably do it also. Pam
37 asked Jay how many of these properties there were. Jay stated there are eight. Julie stated to give the
38 list to Barbara and tell her that they want the letter mailed to them.

39
40 John gave John Donnell some paperwork regarding talking points the commission wants to go over with
41 the Town Planner and the Building Inspector who issues permits for demolition.

42
43 Julie introduced Jordan to the commission. John stated it was a delight to have him there and Pam
44 stated that it is wonderful to have someone from the public come in. Julie stated that he is a liason for
45 the Energy Committee.

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47 John asked if everyone was aware that they have a demolition request on 18 Garrison Ave. He then
48 asked the commission would be able to go and see this one this week. Julie stated that when they talk

49 to Doug and Dave, the procedure for a demolition review is when an application for a demolition permit
50 or a building permit involving a demolition or a site plan review is made. John then said that this has not
51 been happening. They decided that they all could evaluate 18 Garrison Ave on Thursday at 2 pm.
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53 Other Business: Julie wanted to remind everyone about the Window Restoration Workshop at the
54 Reynes Farm is June 29th. They are making reservations for up to ten people.
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56 Julie wanted the commission to know that the HDC had applied for a grant to do a preservation plan for
57 master plan chapter and they did not get it.
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59 John Donnell spoke to the commission. He lives at 25 High Street and has for fifty years. He recently
60 found out that two houses will be torn down by the academy to make a parking lot. Number 31 and
61 number 35 High Street. He thought about it carefully and typed them up and passed one out to each
62 member. Julie stated that she put her foot down at the elimination of Gilman Lane. John then showed
63 the committee a copy of the post plans.

64 John Merkle stated that he does not like the idea at all of what the post plan shows. Pam thinks this
65 would be horrible because those houses are very historic. John Donnell told the commission that the
66 two houses to be torn down have cut granite foundations and could be fixed up nicely. Jordan asked
67 who the biggest supporters were and John stated he got the plans from the Exeter Economic Director
68 from across the hall.

69 Julie stated that this has become public because of the discussion at the Selectmen's Meeting. John
70 Donnell said that he had a list of problems with this that he read to the selectmen and it had to be public
71 then. Julie stated that it is very important to get abutters opinions on this plan. John Donnell will be
72 bringing his notes and concerns about this to the HDC Meeting on Thursday night. He thanked the
73 commission for listening to him and they thanked him for coming.
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75 With no other business, Julie made a motion to adjourn and Pam seconded. All were in favor and
76 meeting adjourned at 8 pm.
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78 Respectfully submitted,

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80 Elizabeth Herrick
81 Recording Secretary
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