

Heritage Commission

September 17, 2019

Final Minutes

Members Present: Julie Gilman, Select Board, Pam Gjettum, Maura Fay, Jay Myers, John Merkle, Chairman, via phone

Call Meeting To Order: Pam called meeting to order at 7:10 pm in the Wheelwright Room of the Exeter Town Office Building.

First Business was the approval of the June 18th and August 21st meeting minutes. Pam asked if all the members had read the minutes. There were a couple of changes to the August 21st minutes. Pam then asked for a motion to approve them. Julie made a motion to approve the June 18th minutes as presented. Jay seconded. All were in favor and minutes approved. Julie then made a motion to approve the August 21st minutes as amended. Jay seconded. All were in favor and minutes approved.

Next on the agenda is the update on Park/Cass Streets surveys. Julie told the members she had two electronic parts to the surveys that she can send to them. John had sent a link out previously. There is only a few more days to make comments. Julie would like them sent to her by this coming Monday. Julie stated that it is a very big document and there is a lot to read but very well written. Jay asked to be reminded of who did this work. Julie said it was Lynne Monroe from the Preservation Commission and she and her crew are very good. Pam asked Julie if she had anything else to say about the surveys other than to read them and get back to her. Maura asked what the date was they had to get back to Julie. Julie said it is due in September, but she would like any comments by Monday 9/23/19. She doesn't think the commission will have a lot of comments anyway.

Julie called John on her cell phone and put him on speaker. The next discussion was about the 2020 budget. Julie stated what they had talked about recently was getting more chemicals and getting more stones done at the Winter Street Cemetery. They had put money in the budget last year for the project and it was a matching thing. Dave and Julie thought they could just put that money in again for this budget because they have shown that they can spend it. This way, they have some freedom to really decide what they can do with the next round of CLG Grants. Pam then stated that she has people who will be willing to help. Julie asked if there was anything else that anyone has seen that they would like to spend money on. Pam stated that the Gas Works Cemetery looks pretty tired. Jay stated that he was up there recently and it does need care. The grass is high and there are stones that are down. John asked which one this was. Pam said it is the one across from 277 Water Street. John stated that he knew which one, the little one. Julie said that she does not think that the Historic District has thought of anything at all. John said it would be nice to get that one open up a little more because it gets overgrown and it is hard to even know it is there.

Next is the discussion on unpermitted demolition/possible demolition review changes. Julie then stated the commission has to make a formal request for Doug and Dave to come to a meeting on the same night. John stated that he will take care of this. Jay asked how much money for this and Julie said it was \$10,000. He then asked if the commission spent that much last year. Julie said they had the matching

grant from LCHIP for it. It was around \$25,000 spent. Maura stated she feels like they have not seen or really done is an annual extension of the budget for the commission. Julie stated that they have not had anyone lead them through this before. Julie then stated she thinks it is time for the commission to do a formal what is our plan meeting and it could just be a work group session. It would be going through the master plan and what has been done with the surveys. This could be done at one of the meetings and Julie said maybe the October one. Jay stated that it made him think of some projects such as the brass band and getting some history about it. He also mentioned the apps idea for a walking tour around town. Julie said that would be a project to do in a year. Maura stated she thinks this would be a great one to add. She said they have talked about it and seemed to always drop it back off the radar. Julie said it was probably because some are not tech savvy enough. Pam then said they talked about this with Bob. They have a couple of walking tours at the Historical Society. If Bob could follow Pam or Barbara around with a camera, that would be good.

Maura stated that the historical marker for where the first church was close to, some gentleman in her neighborhood has been up keeping it lately. He cleared brush out from around it and planted a couple of little flowers. It looks very nice and you can see it now.

Pam asked if there was anything else and Jay asked what the status was of the 110 demolition. Pam stated it comes to the HDC next month. Pam said she was told that she could not use the Historical Society Website to help get people there. She is going to stand up at the next meeting and just ask people to come and spread the word. Maura said that if Pam was willing to type up something, there are a couple of face book groups that post town information and she will post it on them.

With no further business, Pam made a motion to adjourn. Jay seconded. All were in favor and meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Herrick

Recording Secretary