

1 Heritage Commission

2 February 18, 2020

3 Draft Minutes

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

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

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9 First Business: Approval of the January 21, 2020 meeting minutes. After the members reviewed and  
10 had some changes, Pam made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Jay seconded. All were in  
11 favor and minutes approved.

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13 Next is the discussion of Park/Cass Streets Heritage District. John stated that he talked with Nadine  
14 Miller of DHR, and she told him that he should talk to Jennifer Goodman at the Preservation Alliance and  
15 he is seeing Jennifer next Tuesday. She worked with two towns who tried to do it and they were not  
16 successful. He said that Jennifer might have some helpful tips for Maura. John said if she is able to pull  
17 this off, she will be the first one in NH. Jay said that two towns have attempted this and failed. Maura  
18 then asked John if she had mentioned why they had failed. John said that she did not. He feels that it  
19 might be because it is so Planning Board dependent. He said it did not sit well with him when he saw  
20 that. John said that what has been written has been over simplified and he does not think the  
21 commission will have an easy task with this. The Planning Board is not very amiable to taking on more  
22 than they already have. Pam then said to be fair, they have an awful lot to do. Pam said they could go  
23 door to door and John then said they could have a public hearing for everybody in that district. John  
24 thinks this would be a logical early start, assuming they can get themselves in order of how to do this.  
25 Maura said she thinks it makes sense to see if there is any interest or desire to have a board of people  
26 who primarily live in the district. Maura then asked if this would be the next step. Pam suggested that  
27 Maura talk to Jennifer and see if she has anything concrete. Jay asked what got this started and the  
28 objectives for it. Maura said it is a neighborhood that does not have any protection so the idea being  
29 that this level of protection would be not as strict as a Historic District and likely to meet with less  
30 objection from people who might think a Historic District might be too restrictive. Pam then said that  
31 this neighborhood is actually the most historic part of Exeter. Jay sated that the commission would  
32 state that we as the Heritage Commission recognize the historical significance of these neighborhoods.

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34 Next is further discussion on the Division of Historical Resources EMMIT System. John said that he went  
35 on this site before Christmas and he really did not spend a lot of time with it because he did not know  
36 what he could do with it. He is not sure even at that point, that it was even complete. Pam stated that  
37 she did not think it was. She said they got the same thing for the Historical Society and they looked at it,  
38 but really did not understand it.

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40 Discussion of the possibility of assisting the American Heritage Museum with one of their events was  
41 next. Pam said the commission needs to talk with Emma and she thinks waiting for Julie is going to be  
42 pointless. Pam then stated that since she has to talk to Emma anyway, she will take that on. John then

43 said that he does not think the commission can sustain it. Pam said to wait and see what she wants and  
44 maybe the commission can. Jay said the commission was going to invite her to a meeting, so maybe just  
45 have her come to the next one. Pam said she thinks she wants the commission to take on some part of  
46 the Independence Day Festival. Jay said yes, the re-enactors. John stated that in the minutes, it stated  
47 that there is now \$10,000 in the HDC Budget. Pam said that she did say that. She said it is kind of hard  
48 to believe, but that is what was mentioned at the last HDC Meeting. John then said that they must have  
49 that ear marked for something else. Pam said she is not sure because they did not meet last month.  
50 They will be meeting this Thursday.

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52 Next on the agenda is discussion on unpermitted demolition/possible demolition review changes. Pam  
53 said she does not think they can say any more about unpermitted demolition. John said that he does  
54 not think they should give up on this yet. John said they could go back to the list and start picking out  
55 ones they think might have an impact on it and have it enforced by Doug and Dave. Pam said she is still  
56 worried about the High Street property that is owned by the hospital. They have not done one single  
57 thing. John said that today he was talking to the fellow who runs the Peoples Bank on Main Street and  
58 he has a house out by Marshal Farms. He said there has been survey work done out by where the Jolly  
59 Trail was and he thinks there is a developer interested in the property out there.

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61 With no further business, John asked for a motion to adjourn. Pam made the motion. Maura seconded.  
62 All were in favor and meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

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64 Respectfully submitted,  
65 Elizabeth Herrick  
66 Recording Secretary