

Heritage Commission

Final Minutes

May 18, 2021

Members Present: John Merkle, Chairman, Julie Gilman, Select Board Rep., Jay Myers, Vice Chair, John Grueter, Planning Board Rep., Pam Gjettum, Bill Campbell

John Merkle, Chairman, called meeting to order at 12:30 pm via ZOOM.

Business: Approval of April 20, 2021 meeting minutes. John Merkle asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes and everyone had. With some corrections, Julie made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Bill seconded. All were in favor except for John Grueter who abstained because he was not at the last meeting and minutes approved.

John Merkle said that Maura could not join them today so there is no news on the Black Heritage Pocket Park yet. Maura will be getting back to the commission with any new information.

Next on the agenda is the continued discussion of the Park/Cass Streets Neighborhood Heritage Area. John Merkle said there is a ZOOM meeting tomorrow night with the participants. He said that Maura has put together three pages which he will forward to the commission members. It is asking questions yes or no and surveying essentially whether people are in favor of this. They will have this in the neighborhood hands by the end of this week or next week possibly.

Julie asked if the commission had invitations to this meeting. John Merkle said you are welcome to be there. Julie said she was wondering if it would be good to be there to hear everything or maybe just watch and not look like they are putting pressure on the group.

Bill wondered about that. He thought that maybe they would feel that three or four members of the commission were there, they might feel a little intimidated.

Julie said she will just watch and see what is said. John Merkle said a couple of them were pretty adamant that this should be a neighborhood thing. It is a sensitive area, but nothing they cannot overcome. There are a few of them who cannot get past little details and they do not see the big picture yet. Hopefully, this can be bypassed.

John Grueter said that he has not talked much about this with the Planning Board. He told them that this is something that was being worked on. He asked what he should tell the Planning Board. John Merkle said, "let's find out after the survey is sent out and we will get the feedback where we can say whether we want to pursue this or not."

Jay asked John Grueter what the initial reception to this was from the Planning Board. John said there really was no reaction.

John Merkle said tomorrow at 5:15 pm is when the ZOOM will be publically available and the commission can watch it if they want to.

Next is the election of officers. John Merkle said that Maura has volunteered to stay the Treasurer again. John said he would very much like to nominate Jay as Chair. Julie said she will second the nomination for Jay if he will accept it. Jay said he would accept it.

Julie said she moves to nominate Jay as Chair of the Heritage Commission. Pam seconded. All were in favor and Jay is the new Chairman.

Bill made a motion to nominate John Merkle as Vice Chair. John Grueter seconded. All were in favor and John Merkle is the new Vice Chair.

Julie moved to nominate Maura as Treasurer to the Heritage Commission. Bill seconded. All were in favor and Maura is Treasurer again.

Julie said that technically they need a Clerk and Pam volunteered. Bill made a motion to elect Pam as the Clerk. Julie seconded. All were in favor and Pam is now the Clerk.

John Merkle said that every now and then, they get notifications from the State of N.H. There is federal money used on resources in the town. Section 106 requires that the State of N.H. gets approval or it seeks notification of work that is scheduled to be in progress. It includes historical resources and archeological resources. In this case, they are planning to replace a culvert on Newfields Road which John thinks it does not have much to do with anything historic. DHR needs to respond to this but not immediately, but within the next several months.

Julie asked if this was a request from DHR. John said no that this came directly from the Department of Transportation. Julie said that was interesting because they need to pass that through the Division of Historical Resources.

Pam asked what exactly do they want us to do. Julie said they can comment on any historical features they think need to be preserved or replaced. Julie said they are not digging a new culvert, they are just replacing one and there should not be a lot of disturbance.

Julie asked the members if anyone got the survey request from Amy Dixon at DHR regarding how the certified governments are working. No one received it so Julie will forward it to everyone.

John Merkle asked Pam and Julie if they were in agreement on the demolition of a garage at One Salem Street. They both said yes and John said he will get the letter out to Doug Eastman

Julie said the Select Board is having a couple of people that are going to go through the whole list of boards, commissions and advisory groups that there are and see if they are still necessary. The other is whether they need to meet monthly or every other week. One of the things the commission can decide formally is if we want to meet quarterly or every other month or only when there is demolition. Julie said she would recommend they leave it as a monthly meeting, but if they don't have anything that has changed since the last meeting, that we have the right to cancel.

John Merkle asked if there was any other business. Julie said she can give a little bit of information on the Pocket Park. Renay Alan who is heading the whole thing met with Mark Leighton from the academy because the suggested area for the Pocket Park is right next to the formerly known as Donahue Tucker Building. They just wanted to meet about the integration of the two areas. She thinks it was just an exchange of information.

Julie said there was a piece of legislation that was aimed at creating affordable housing that was going to form a committee and would be advisory and offer grants to towns that wanted to do master plans or go further with a project they want to preserve. This was not well favored and it got crossed out.

With no further business, Julie made a motion to adjourn. John Grueter seconded. All were in favor and meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Herrick

Recording Secretary