

Heritage Commission
May 18, 2022
Final Minutes

Members Present: Jay Myers, Chairman, John Merkle, Vice Chair, Bill Campbell, Julie Gilman, Select Board Rep., Maura Fay, Treasurer

Two members from the public: Ben Moore and Joel Schander

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

Business: Approval of the March 16, 2022 minutes. After reviewing, there were a few changes made. Julie was not at the last meeting and there were not enough members present to officially approve the minutes. Julie asked if any of the changes that were made were consequential. All members present agreed that the changes made were cosmetic. They will be tabled until next month's meeting.

Next on the agenda is the tabulation and evaluation of the Neighborhood Heritage Area Survey. Jay said the letter and notification went out about three weeks ago and the voting time frame was roughly two weeks. There were two piles. One was opposed and one was in favor. Jay then asked for a physical count. John, Maura and he each counted the piles. The official tally was 62 opposed and 26 in favor.

Jay then asked the commission members what the plan was for moving forward. Do we accept the votes as tabulated and do we need a motion on this to make it official. John then made a motion to document the return postcards from the survey which are 26 in support, 62 opposed and 4 returned. Bill seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Julie said next, they should hear from the public. Joel Schander said that the numbers speak for him. Ben Moore said that people at some point may want to look at the postcards. Julie said they are public record and she will ask the Building Department to store them for a period of time; 90 days or so.

After further discussion on the Neighborhood Heritage Area Survey, John made a motion to accept the results of the survey and not push it forward to the Planning Board. Julie seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Maura made a proposal that they create a summary of the survey process we went through and the fact that we received 88 results out of 195 and due to getting more opposed to it, we as a commission decided not to continue with the project. This is a way to wrap it up. All members present thought this was a good idea.

The next item of business is the Demo Review Committee update of 50 Linden Street. Jay said that he, John and John Grueter were at the site visit. Pam had made a visit, but not when they were there. As a commission, Jay said it was decided that the structure was in a compromised state and it was not a safe structure and there was no foundation. The commission is not opposed to the demolition.

Next is the updates from representatives of the Select Board, Planning Board and Historic District Committees.

Jay asked Julie if there was any information regarding the Select Board. Julie said only if you want to go into the history of the Parks and Recreation Department. She said to keep in mind ideas for the property on Court Street. She said, we will be asked for some input, I am sure. There are no plans or ideas yet on how they want to use that building. Julie said she could also speak for the HDC. She said the church project is going to proceed.

Another thing Julie mentioned was the Certified Local Government Grant. She said that she and Dave let it go. The deadline was Friday and the requirements in the handbook were changed. There has not been a grant in a few years and we did not notice some of the changes in the book. One of the requirements now is to get two quotes from consultants for whatever projects you want to do. What was decided to do and this would help both the HDC and the Heritage Commission, is a form that Dave had from Somersworth. When you take a section of a historic district, document as much as you can and take photographs. You really should just concentrate on the character defining features.

In regards to the grant for next year, Julie recommended to Dave that we start on High Street because that has not had the survey.

Julie said that three architects on the HDC have retired/moved out of town. If anyone knows of anyone who would be interested, have them submit an application.

Bill asked about 8 Gilman Lane. Julie said the letter that was sent, said the work had been started and the drywall was being taken off. Jay said that it sounds like they have salvage interest for the fireplace. Everyone was in agreement that they did not need to go and look at it again,

Jay stated that the election of officers will be done at the next meeting.

With no further business, Jay asked for a motion to adjourn. Bill said, so moved. Julie seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Herrick
Recording Secretary

