

Heritage Commission
July 20, 2022
Final Minutes

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

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

New Business: Public Hearing: First is the approval of the June 15, 2022 minutes. After review and a few changes, Julie made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Bill seconded. All were in favor and minutes approved.

Next, Bill asked about the Master Plan and Jay said he made note of this and this should be on the agenda moving forward and this would be the Heritage Master Plan.

Julie said the commission should organize this as soon as possible. Jay said he has not heard of any plans for the Channel 22 Public Service Announcement. Julie said this is really up to the TV staff to schedule these.

Jay then asked if he should draft up something that he would say at the Public Service Announcement. Julie said we definitely want a script. Jay said he will add this as an action item.

Next on the agenda is the antique trough donation. Members have a copy of this letter dated June 27, 2022.

Jay said this is something the Heritage Commission was asked to view and weigh in on. This gives us an opportunity to help in the decision making process, one being the placement of the trough and the other in its use which is to fill it with some flowers and having a plaque placed on it.

Pam asked if a plaque could be placed on granite and Julie said, yes.

Bill made the suggestion to maybe have it out front of the town office, Julie said that she disagrees and thinks out front is too crowded. Julie said their other suggestion was the Town House Common and she would prefer this as she does not see any other place to put it. The members discussed different places.

Jay said what he is hearing from everyone is that visibility is important and also recognition that maintenance around it, whether it is grass or snow is an important factor. No specific location was decided on yet.

Jay will draft up a response capturing the discussion from this meeting.

Julie said she had one question. There is a base below the trough and would it be acceptable for her to reach out to someone who has a big slab of granite. All members thought that would be a good idea.

Next is the Black Heritage Pocket Park and Jay said without Maura being here, he suspects there is any update on where this is at this point.

Julie said she thinks this is being held up because construction is going to be done down there.

Jay shared an email he got from Parks and Rec about the DAR plaque for the Winter Street Cemetery and it has not been placed there yet.

Jay spoke about memorializing the Neighborhood Heritage Area Proposal. He included a draft outline that he shared with those who attended the last meeting and he wanted to bring it back at this meeting. It is to create some sort of documentation of the significant work that was done and he thinks it is important to create a resource for others who may attempt to create a Neighborhood Heritage Area.

Jay thinks there needs to be some sort of narrative here with short paragraphs or some kind of timeline that has appendices to the document.

Pam said this would prevent someone who wants to try and do this, not having to start from scratch and Jay said that is exactly what he is saying.

John Merkle said there is the document produced by Liz Hankins and it should be mentioned because that explained the legal legalities of the whole issue. John then said this would go in the front with the survey that was done.

Julie said she will take a stab at doing an opening document of what we were trying to do and the resources that were used. Jay will work on this as well.

John Grueter said this will be a good thing in case someone gets the urge to do this in five years, there will be a reference for them to look at and Julie said, or would they do it differently.

Jay then talked about the election of officers and asked if there was any interest in doing this or should the officers we have now continue until next season, Spring time.

Jay said he will continue on as Chairman until his time is done. John Merkle will continue as Vice Chair as well. Maura is Treasurer, but is not present for this meeting.

John Grueter made a motion for all officers to remain through their session. All were in favor and motion approved.

Updates from representatives of the Select Board, Planning Board and Historic District Commission. Julie said one thing is the trough plus the Public Service Announcements and they will be organized a little bit better.

Julie said the one thing the Select Board has been talking about is formalizing whether to meet every month or as needed and this does not necessarily mean the Heritage Commission.

Julie asked if we need to meet every month and she thinks we should just leave it as it is for now. It is easy enough to cancel if need be.

John Grueter from the Planning Board said that the Baptist Church has been approved and ready to go.

Julie said that the HDC has lost three of the architects.

With no further business, John Grueter made a motion to adjourn. Bill seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Herrick
Recording Secretary