

Heritage Commission

Draft Minutes

March 20, 2024

Call Meeting to Order: Pam Gjettum, standing in for Vice Chair John Merkle, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am in the Novak Room of the Exeter Town Office Building.

Members Present: Pam Gjettum, Bill Campbell, Francoise Elise and Dave Sharples, Town Planner.

New Business: Public Hearing: First on the agenda is the review of the minutes from the February 21, 2024 meeting. After review and no changes, Bill made a motion to accept the minutes. Francoise seconded. All were in favor and minutes accepted.

Next is the Pine Street Grant. Pam asked the members if anyone knows where that stands at the moment. Dave said that he has been dealing with Brandy. It took a while to get through the Governor and Counsel and I think it did just recently so I think we are moving ahead. Julie would probably have more details.

Demolition Review Committee update. Pam said, I don't think we have had any.

Updates from representatives of the Select Board, Planning Board and Historic District Commission. Pam said, the Select Board Rep., is not here. Planning Board Rep., is not here and the Historic District Commission has not met since last year.

Old Business: Updates and/or discussions on various projects and initiatives and 23 Water Street Park which is the old Chocolatier site.

Dave said, I presented before you the RSA 14a that requires review from the various boards and commissions and input from the Select Board and that was done back in December. The Select Board did accept the land and the Pocket Park is now ours and we own it. There were some interested citizens that came to the Select Board to start a committee. The Select Board is creating a committee. Once the committee is established, they will start taking applications immediately through the Town Manager's Office and this committee will start meeting on what will happen at that property and to make it a public park.

Bill said, what I was wondering about, but I think we sort have done it, looked into the history of that ground. There was a fire there and all that, but before that how old the building was that was there. It certainly was not new.

Dave said, the history I know is that when it burned down, DPW was called in. They came down with an excavator and took some of the debris to Simpson's Pit. Last week, Dave Short sent me an Environmental Report. I have not dove into that yet because it is quite large, but I am sure a lot of environmentalists' look at the history. They look at the history to see what had been there.

Pam said there was a variety store, a shoe repair shop but there was not any chemical factory that I have ever heard of. Plus it has been continuously used since the 1700s.

Francoise thinks it would be a good idea to have either an Historic District Commission member or Heritage Commission member be on the committee the Select Board will be establishing.

Bill said, I would like to make a formal recommendation of this to the Select Board.

Francoise said, I would like to make a recommendation from the Heritage Commission that someone from the Historic District Commission or the Heritage Commission be part of the Select Board Committee. Bill seconded. All were in favor and recommendation accepted.

With no further business, Bill made a motion to adjourn. Pam seconded. All were in favor and meeting adjourned at 11 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Herrick

Recording Secretary