

CHARLESTOWN HERITAGE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, 28 September, 2010 7:00 pm
Bakery Building, Main Street, Charlestown, NH

Present: Wesley Van Velsor, Eric Lutz, Joyce Higgins, Terry Spilsbury, Carol Clark, Alternate Aare Ilves, Selectboard member Douglas Ring

Absent: Barbara Jones

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Chairperson Wesley Van Velsor. In the absence of Barbara Jones, Aare Ilves was seated as alternate.

1. Minutes for the 24 August, 2010 meeting were approved.
2. Aare Ilves provided a financial report to the Heritage Commission members for the period 01/01/10 through 09/27/10. Aare stated that he estimated the history project expenses for the next three months would be roughly \$200. to \$300. each month, leaving sufficient funds in the history account.

A motion was made by Joyce, seconded by Terry, and unanimously passed that we pay the bill that Wes submitted for the remaining balance on the new Charlestown signs project. The Heritage Commission would like to express its thanks to Wes for his outstanding oversight and direction in bringing this new sign project to completion. The handsome signs are truly a nice enhancement for Main Street.

Discussion was held regarding the Heritage Commission's budget request and warrant article request for the year 2011. Aare stated that in the past, the \$1500. for the general budget and the \$1500. for the tree budget line items have, at times, made project payments tight. In an effort to accurately estimate costs for 2011, a question arose regarding a deadline for the Charlestown Third History book project and inherent associated costs. It was suggested that the Commission contact a publisher to obtain an estimate of potential book publishing costs. The Commission stated it would prefer to request another warrant article for future costs associated with this book project, rather than asking for additional funds in the 2011 Heritage Commission general budget line.

In determining its budget request for 2011, Aare pointed out three potential efforts that the Commission may want to pursue:

- town benches
- curbing by the new Charlestown sign at north Main St
- improving the area around the sidewalk by the bulletin board on Main St

Carol provided input from the Charlestown Women's Club and their efforts and ideas for obtaining benches for Main Street. It was suggested that a member from the Heritage Commission, the Women's Club, the Senior Center, the Tree Committee, and other concerned groups present a request to purchase and install benches to the Selectboard at the November meeting. Charlestown is known as a "walking town", and the benches would likely encourage this to continue.

Of the three projects suggested, it was decided that the Commission would pursue the benches and the curbing projects, each roughly estimated at \$750.00. Since there is a current deficit in the general fund of just under \$500., and the two projects for 2011 would total roughly \$1500., it was moved by Carol, seconded by Eric, and unanimously passed that the next budget request to the town should be for \$2,500.00.

3. Joyce provided a general update on the Third town history book project, and said things continue to move along as scheduled. A couple of stories regarding past events were submitted for inclusion in the book.

4. Eric informed the Commission regarding the Historical Society's activities at the Fort at #4 this past weekend. Eric said it was well attended and that there were many volunteers. It was also mentioned that Barbara had attended a recent planning/business meeting for the Fort at #4 advisors. The October activities for the Fort at #4 are listed on the web site.

5. Further discussion was held regarding the bench project for the town, and it was decided that the Heritage Commission would head this project and request input and assistance from other local organizations. Joyce will speak with Ed Smith at the police station to get his input and support, and she will contact the Selectboard and ask to be added to their November agenda. Carol will contact the Women's Club and the Senior Center to advise them of this project and to solicit their ideas and support.

6. Joyce will submit an article relevant to the Thanksgiving season for the next Our Town.

7. The Commission discussed the letter to be sent to the Selectboard regarding the building structure for and the location of the cannon. Terry suggested that a couple of sentences from the Heritage Commission August meeting notes be included in the letter, providing specific criteria for use in the decision making process regarding the housing and display of the cannon. Douglas Ring suggested placement next to, but not attached to, the new police station. He stated the housing structure would be approximately one foot from each edge of the cannon, one side made of glass, one door for cannon entry/exit, and placed outside the station next to two flagpoles.

8. Eric stated that he has initiated efforts to clean up the town bulletin board, and had to have a new key made because no one had a key to access the five-panel cabinet. Eric proposed that we identify a colored town map and place it in the cabinet. Since it was noted that there does not appear to be a good town map, Eric would like to have a part in generating a new one. Discussion was also made regarding the future upkeep of the bulletin board and under whose responsibility the maintenance should rest.

The next Heritage Commission meeting is scheduled for October 26, 7:00 pm at the Bakery building. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55pm.

Carol Clark
Secretary
Approved minutes