

CHARLESTOWN HERITAGE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, 25 May, 2010 7:00 pm
Bakery Building, Main Street, Charlestown, NH

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm by Chairperson Wesley Van Velsor

1. Minutes for the 27 April, 2010 meeting were approved.
2. Aare Ilves provided the Heritage Commission with a year-to-date financial report for its three accounts. A motion was made and passed that the Heritage Commission request another \$2,000.00 be transferred from the trust funds (Capital Reserve Fund) for use during the next several months for the 3rd Charlestown History project expenses.
- 3/5. Joyce Higgins reported that the Town History sub-committee continues to meet with Sue Richardson and Pat Ahern, with Sue focusing on incoming genealogies. Judy Yurek is almost exclusively concentrating on genealogy entries, and there is a procedure whereby new entries are proofed then cleared for final edit. Eric Lutz stated that he continues to find new material to add to the book, including information on the schools. There will be a table set up in the front hallway of the Town Hall on Old Home Day which will contain a loose-leaf notebook of the Third Town History draft. Discussion was made regarding establishing a pre-publication price, asking visitors to leave their names and addresses for contact, and whether there will be multiple copies of the book draft available on that date. Eric requested Heritage Commission members assist with the manning of the table on that date from approximately 11am to 4pm.
4. Terry Spilsbury gave a brief summary of events regarding the Essay contest, and then stated that seven submissions had been made through the Middle School English/Language Arts teacher, Ms. Ingalls. Terry spoke with Ms. Ingalls at length regarding next year's participation in this event, and Ms. Ingalls said it would be beneficial to her to have the Heritage Commission provide several alternatives to the long-time Charlestown resident research and essay option. It was agreed that the timing of this event is appropriate for all concerned, and a bit earlier in the spring would be even better. A rough list of essay rating criteria was mentioned, and it was agreed that Barbara Jones, Eric, Terry, and Carol would review the submissions and give their assessments to Terry no later than Tuesday, June 1. Carol stated that she would create the certificates and send out the press release to inform the public that the winning essays would be read and certificates would be presented at the June meeting of the Charlestown Historical Society.
5. It was indicated that Jay, Len Fisher's son, has two horses and a buggy for Eric and Wes to ride on during the Old Home Day parade. Wes will contact Jay to confirm. The Heritage Commission members were extremely pleased to hear that Barbara Jones had been selected to be the Grand Marshall for this year's parade.

6. Wes brought an itemized list of materials and estimated cost for the proposed new signs for the village of Charlestown. His cost was approximately the same as the quote he received from Dennis Tier for the two signs, and stated that Dennis would do a meticulous and professional job. The cost for the two signs would be roughly \$1,900.00, plus the cost of posts, finials, and paint, to bring the final total to \$2,272.00 for the two signs. A motion was made and passed that the Heritage Commission would contract with Dennis to make the signs, and the Commission would allocate \$1,500.00 of its general fund toward the signs and would solicit donations from local entities for the roughly \$700.00 balance needed. One sign will be placed at the south end of Main Street to replace the "1987" sign there, and one would be placed on the north end of Main Street. A map was provided by Eric to show exactly where the proposed site of the north sign would be. Eric said he would meet with Dave Edkins to discuss sign placement, requesting highway department approval, the minimum distance required from the fire hydrant to the sign, and proposed curbing. After Eric obtains this information, he will attend a Selectboard meeting and provide feedback. If the State says it will not approve the proposed location, then the sign will probably be located on the other side of the sidewalk by the current Rotary/Women's Club sign.

7. Joyce related that she received information from Paul Truax that the Fort at #4 would be reopening under the Masons' direction. Discussion was held regarding current ownership, board of directors, and management of the Fort at #4.

8. Wes went to the Town Barn to view the benches currently be stored there. He said that the bench style was quite modern and gave the Commission an estimate of cost to restore the benches to full use. Depending on the material, the cost ranged from \$50.00/bench to roughly \$95.00/bench for restoration. Other bench designs and possible bench examples were mentioned, and it was decided that the Commission would not restore/use the benches currently stored in the Town Barn. It was agreed that the Commission would like to have benches that would be esthetically more compatible with the historic elements already in place, and suggested that more research be done, possibly delaying the bench project until 2011.

9. Eric will write an article for Our Town for the July issue, giving an update on the progress of the Third History of Charlestown book.

10. Eric and Carol will continue to check the Town website to make sure the Heritage Commission information is complete and accurate, and will contact Kelly if changes are needed.

11. The disrepair of multiple properties on Main Street was brought up, and it was suggested that a letter be composed from the Heritage Commission to all Main Street residents regarding this issue. The letter could mention the upgrades that have recently been made to improve the town's image, and suggest that the inhabitants of Main Street carry a certain responsibility that comes with the privilege of residence. The letter should also include an appreciation for those who maintain their property's attractiveness with historic respect for the town, including displaying lights in their windows during the holidays. Several members said they would agree to work on this letter with other members.

The next Heritage Commission meeting is scheduled for June 29 at 7:00 pm at the Bakery building. The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 pm.

Carol Clark
Secretary

Unapproved minutes