

CHARLESTOWN HERITAGE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, 26 January, 2010 7:00 pm
Bakery Building, Main Street, Charlestown, NH

Present: Eric Lutz, Barbara Jones, Joyce Higgins, Terry Spilsbury, Carol Clark, alternate Aare Ilves

Absent: Chairperson Wesley Van Velsor

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Eric Lutz.

In the absence of Wesley Van Velsor, Aare Ilves was seated as alternate.

1. Minutes for the 22 December, 2009 meeting were approved.
2. Mr. Jeff Lessels, a local carpenter, was welcomed to the meeting and invited to hear the discussion of the Heritage Commission members regarding possible new welcome signs for the Town of Charlestown. Background for the sign project was reviewed, to include initial ideas proposed by the Tree Committee, ownership of the property at the “jug handle” location, and current location of welcome signs. Discussion followed regarding the purpose and positioning of the new welcome signs, and possible Phase 1/Phase 2 sign purchase and placements. Following the discussion, the members requested Jeff’s input and advice. Suggestions were made and discussion resumed regarding sign placement, size, color, design, and cost. Consensus is that the members bring Wes up to date on this discussion, and during the next month, members may photograph attractive town signs to present at our next meeting.
3. Aare distributed the Heritage Commission end-of-year financial reports for 2009, as well as offered copies of the 2008 report to the newer members. These reports included both the Heritage Commission general funds and the Tree Commission funds. Aare reviewed these reports with the members, and it was moved that the reports be filed for audit.
4. Eric Lutz attended Charlestown’s Financial Committee meeting at the community room on January 18 as the Heritage Commission’s representative. Warrant article #7 was read requesting new funds for 2010, and included in this warrant article was the request to allow the funds in the trust account be transferred and made available for use for the updated town history. Heritage Commission members thought that the two requests would be separated into two warrant articles, but they had been combined into one. Joyce Higgins said that she would talk with Dave Edkins to see if we can further clarify the warrant article, delineating the request for funds separate from the transfer of funds from another account. Joyce also agreed to attend the Town’s deliberative session on Feb 3, held at the Town Hall.
5. The Letter of Understanding between the Charlestown Heritage Commission and the Charlestown Historical Society was provided by Joyce and reviewed by the Commission members, and revisions were suggested. Terry Spilsbury will re-word the Letter and send the new draft to the Commission members for their review. Joyce also provided the contract between the Charlestown Historical Society and Judith Yurek, a data entry independent

contractor, making provision for Judith's work on the Third History of Charlestown project. This contract will be filed as an attachment to these meeting notes.

6./7. Joyce provided an update on Judith's efforts and focus regarding her work on the Third History of Charlestown project. Joyce stated that Judith currently has two focal points in her work. These points are to continue to research, identify, and update the listing of Town officials, and to review the Town reports of business from the town meetings, extracting highlights for inclusion in the book. Joyce indicated that the History sub-committee plans to meet twice a month for the next several months.

8. Eric wrote an article on the 3rd History map update for the next edition of Our Town.

9. Members described former Old Home Days and what we might do to incorporate any of the ideas into this year's festivities to be held on July 24, 2010.

10. Ideas for the subject matter for the 2010 essay contest were discussed, including what the Fort at #4 means to the town, and possible interviews with long-term Charlestown residents. It was decided that we would brainstorm at next month's Commission meeting.

11. Barbara Jones provided an update on the status of the powderhorns, currently held at Skinners Auction house, and the possible purchase of same for the Town, display location to be advised by the Charlestown Historical Society.

The next Heritage Commission meeting is scheduled for February 23 at 7:00 pm at the Bakery building. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Clark

Approved minutes

