

CHARLESTOWN HERITAGE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, 22 March, 2011 7:00 pm
Bakery Building, Main Street, Charlestown, NH

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

Absent: Barbara Jones

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm by Chairperson Terry Spilsbury. In the absence of Barbara Jones, Aare Ilves was seated as alternate.

It was noted that Wes and Joyce's Charlestown Heritage Commission terms expire in 2011. Eric made a motion that the Commission send a letter to the Selectboard recommending that Wes and Joyce be reappointed to another three-year term on the Commission, and that Sue Richardson be appointed as alternate. This motion was seconded by Aare and unanimously passed. Terry agreed to prepare and send the letter.

1. Wes made a motion that the minutes for the 22 February, 2011 meeting be approved. It was seconded by Eric and unanimously passed.

2. Aare stated that there were not any funds expended yet this year from the general fund, but that five expenses totaling \$735.40 have been paid from the 2010 Warrant Article for the 3rd Town History project. There is roughly \$3,936.00 on hand for the 3rd History project plus an additional \$2,000.00 from the Warrant Article that was approved in 2011. The last two Warrant Article funds must be used before the end of 2012 or they will expire. It was decided that any further funds that need to be disbursed should be run through Aare for accounting oversight. Aare and Terry will discuss fund balances with Jessica in the near future.

3. Eric said that he was pleased to see the margin by which this year's Warrant Article passed.

4. Joyce stated that work on the 3rd History project continues to progress and the book is taking final shape. Eric is talking with three publishers for quotes. Joyce still needs information from several Charlestown organizations, and she has requested details of progress and changes in their entities since 1954, as well as history of new organizations in town. Joyce said that she will likely end up with more information than she can include in the book, so some will be included in its entirety, some trimmed, and some omitted. The subject of photos was also brought up, and it was mentioned that the book quotes include 150 photos; any extra would be at an additional charge. A sub-committee was formed, consisting of Eric, Terry, and Wes, to focus on the financing of the book, and Eric will chair this sub-committee.

5. Aare and Terry passed out several catalogs to illustrate available benches, and asked Commission members to give their input on design preferences. Consensus was that the benches should be in keeping with the historical context of the town, wrought or cast iron, durable, and able to accommodate at least three people. The benches would be roughly 6' – 8' in length, and the benches may vary in length according to geographic placement. If a material is used in conjunction with the wrought or cast iron, the material should not be too artificial looking. It was

stated that the Hoyt Trust Fund would not be an appropriate tool from which to apply for financial assistance. Aare stated that the Claremont Savings Bank has a foundation with possible available funds, and he has obtained an application form for a request.

6. Aare said that the Tree Committee met and reviewed the curbing project on north Main Street and identified the lead person from their committee as Eric. Eric said the project may qualify for funds from the Hoyt Trust Fund. Eric will price second-hand curbing and will write a request to the Trustee of Trust Funds with figures for a formal proposal.

7. Terry met with the 7th grade Middle School English teacher, Mrs. Ingalls, regarding the Heritage Commission essay contest for 2011. It was agreed that the winners will be acknowledged at the Charlestown Historical Society meeting on June 19, 2011, therefore essays should be due no later than May 27th, with the winners announced on June 3rd. Mrs. Ingalls said that there are 72 students in the 7th grade this year, and this essay is one of four major essays in her curriculum. The essay will be mandatory for her students, but submission to the Heritage Commission essay contest will be the prerogative of the student. Terry will give Mrs. Ingalls the list that Joyce created, which identifies numerous notable people from Charlestown.

8. Eric stated that 150 tickets were sold last month for dinner at the Common Man in support of the Fort at #4 activities, providing the Fort with approximately a net gain of \$1,900.00. Eric said that there will be cleaning at the Fort the weekend of April 2-3, and they are pursuing the construction of a community garden at the entrance to the Fort.

9. Doug Ring passed out a design mock-up of the housing for the cannon. Doug is getting prices for the brick work, interior work, and roof. It was suggested that the brick work be minimized to allow the greatest visibility of the cannon. The cannon will be housed next to the flagpoles, chained to the floor with locks, behind tempered glass, and lit. Doug will ask contractors about ventilation options. Doug would like to remove and replant a couple of the trees adjacent to this area, and it was suggested that this topic would be a good item for the Tree Committee.

10. Eric said that there is no news regarding the library mortar or the Town Hall windows, but he is submitting an article about both subjects for the April *Our Town*.

11. Aare will write an article for the May edition of *Our Town*, describing plans for the area around the bulletin board.

12. Terry read a letter he had drafted to the Recreation Committee thanking them for their efforts and involvement in mid-winter activities and the reinstatement of the ice rink. A copy of the letter will be put in the Heritage Commission file.

The next Heritage Commission meeting is scheduled for April 26, 7:00 pm at the Bakery building. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.

Carol Clark
Secretary
Approved minutes