

CHARLESTOWN HERITAGE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, 23 August, 2011 7:00 pm
Bakery Building, Main Street, Charlestown, NH

Present: Wesley Van Velsor, Joyce Higgins, Terry Spilsbury, Carol Clark, alternates Aare Ilves and Sue Richardson

Absent: Barbara Jones and Eric Lutz

1a. The meeting commenced at 7:05 pm with the visit of Heritage Commission members to the shop of Wes Van Velsor. The bench prototype was viewed at Wes's shop, and the meeting reconvened to the bakery building. Chairperson Terry Spilsbury called the meeting to order and in the absence of Barbara and Eric, Aare and Sue were seated as alternates. Judy Baraly and Judy Petre, who wanted to discuss the Town Hall fire-code status, were welcomed as guests.

1b. The cost of the bench at Wes's shop is \$675. , weighing roughly 340 pounds, and measures 8 feet in length. Wes will provide an invoice for the labor and material. Aare moved to approve the expenditure for the bench, Sue seconded the motion, and it was unanimously passed. The bench was made by Jim Purington. Discussion was made regarding protocol for the next step in bench placement. Terry will call Dave Edkins and Wes can arrange to have the bench brought to the library lawn.

2. Joyce made a motion to approve the minutes for the 26 July, 2011 meeting, seconded by Aare, and the minutes were unanimously passed.

3. Aare distributed the Heritage Commission financial report dated 01/01/11 through 8/22/11 for year to date expenses. Aare noted that 3rd History expenses known to have been incurred by the Historical Society during May and June have yet to be reflected in the Heritage Commission's accounts, so members can anticipate that entries for those months will be updated by our next meeting. Terry and Aare agreed to speak with Jessica about getting a clearer summary of amounts paid monthly from the commission's several accounts.

6. Discussion began regarding the Town Hall fire-code renovation requirements, and reference was made to a recent meeting hosted by the Rotary regarding the building. Judy Baraly summarized that meeting, and as a result of that meeting, individuals saw the need to organize. She said individuals were looking to resurrect a Town Hall committee, similar to the one that was operating in the 1980's, which organized fund raising at that time. It was suggested that a new committee could initiate a fund raising project for the necessary sprinkler system and fire alarm system. It was mentioned that there is a New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment program, and it might be beneficial if that was researched. Judy said they were looking for a partner who would provide stewardship. This partner would file an annual report showing that the building is being maintained and progress is being made every year. It appears that the Heritage Commission's mission statement falls in line with this need. The Historical Society will be the writer of a letter to apply for a grant.

Discussion covered easements, penalties, elevators, ADA requirements, fire code issues and it was suggested that the best way to focus efforts would be to find the core issues and pursue those. The Heritage Commission said they would help to take up this cause in a meaningful way.

5. Aare suggested members look at the stone fascia relative to the Main Street beautification project at the town's bulletin board area, and return to him with preferences.

4a. Joyce sent a Table of Contents to Heritage Commission members for the Third History and Joyce will be following up on this.

4b. There are no new publication updates for the Third History at this point. It was suggested that Jeanne Moody could possibly do the indexing for the book.

7. No news regarding the Fort at #4 activities.

8. Joyce stated that the VFW decided to pay for the cannon housing and will move it.

9. Sue and Joyce wrote an article for the September issue of *Our Town*. Terry will write something for the October issue, probably regarding the new benches.

10. A new business idea was suggested that an historic plaque for the Town Hall be developed. This was tabled until the next meeting.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40.

The next Heritage Commission meeting is scheduled for September 27, 7:00 pm at the Bakery building.

Carol Clark
Secretary

Approved minutes