

CHARLESTOWN HERITAGE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, 22 January, 2013 7:00 pm
Bakery Building, Main Street, Charlestown, NH

Present: Joyce Higgins, Sue Richardson, Eric Lutz, Carol Clark, Selectboard member Art Grenier, guest Sue Coleman

Absent: Wesley Van Velsor, Terry Spilsbury

The Charlestown Heritage Commission was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairperson Joyce Higgins. The Heritage Commission welcomed prospective Commission member Sue Coleman.

1. A motion was made to approve the minutes for the 27 November, 2012 meeting as corrected. This motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved.

2. Relative to the Commission's funding and for the benefit of prospective member Sue C., Joyce explained the financial and occupational relationship between the Charlestown Heritage Commission and the Tree Committee.

Joyce stated that in December, 2012, financial issues regarding Trust Fund money and the savings account which included 2010/2011 Warrant Article money were resolved. Unspent balances were transferred to the Commission's savings account at the Connecticut River Bank, leaving only three active accounts: the savings account, the Warrant Article money for publishing the Third History, and our budget line.

3. Joyce stated that the Commission requested the Selectboard include \$3,500. in 2013's Town budget line for the Commission, but the Selectboard approved only \$2,000. - \$1,500. for projects and \$500. for general use. It was mentioned that the Commission members did not attend the Town's Finance Committee or Selectboard's sessions, personally requesting this money and stating how it proposed to use it. Joyce stated that she had asked town officers multiple times if she could appear before the Finance Committee and/or the Selectboard to explain the 2013 budget line request, but she was told it was not necessary.

Joyce read a letter from Pat Royce, Tree Committee member, regarding the Tree Committee's money that the Commission is currently holding in its savings account. Joyce said that she has received the December, 2012 statement, and she and Sue R. will confirm the Tree Committee's balance. Joyce and Sue R. will then work with Aare so that both groups may

identify and reconcile the amount of money available to the Tree Committee.

4. Joyce stated that Charlestown's Third History was sent to the publisher, Sherwin Dodge, on January 15, 2013. The editor said he would set it up and put it in final form and typeset, and that she should have the draft back in a week or a week and a half. Sample options for book cover color were passed around, and Eric made a motion that the Third History cover be in scarlet vellum. This was seconded by Sue R. and unanimously passed. There was discussion regarding the sales price for the book, and what amount the Commission needs to return to the Town. Art will go to the Selectboard and ask them what price they would suggest for the sale of each book, and find out if the Commission needs to refund all the roughly \$28,000. recent Warrant Article money, or if it needs to add in all other Warrant Article book-related funding.

5. Benches are on hold for the winter.

6. A. Joyce, as chairperson of the Commission, will be designated as the Commission's representative to the Town Hall Committee, but an alternate needs to be identified.

B. As stewards of the Town Hall for the purposes of the grant, the Commission needs to prepare a plan of stewardship. Joyce has emailed Judy Baraly to see if we could look at someone else's current plan of stewardship so that we may get a sense of what is needed.

It has been suggested that the Commission be involved in a fund raising effort.

7. Joyce wrote an article for the February edition of Our Town and mentioned the plaques. She mentioned that the Commission might buy and place the plaques on one or two town buildings each year, and offered to allow residents to purchase one for their residence.

8. Keith had the cannon moved to the Fire Department building.

9. Joyce will write an article for the March edition of Our Town regarding Mr. Silsby, after whom the town library is named.

10. It was questioned whether we need a Commission policy in place to limit the amount of time allowed for public comment. It was decided that it would be acceptable for the

chairperson to close out public comment after a reasonable time.

11. Eric mentioned that the November dinner at the Fort @ #4 was a wonderful event. The Fort @ #4 would like to put on a spring event to help promote the distribution of the Third History. Contact person would be Wendy.

Since Carol will not be resuming her seat on the Commission in 2013, there will be three vacant seats on the Heritage Commission in March. The Commission was hopeful that Sue Coleman would agree to have her name put forward to fill one of these vacancies.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

The next Heritage Commission meeting is scheduled for 26 February, 2013 7:00 pm at the Bakery building.

Carol Clark, Secretary
Approved minutes