

Kensington Heritage Commission Meeting

January 22, 2020

Minutes – **DRAFT**

In Attendance:

Present: Regular Members: Lynne Monroe, chair, Bob Solomon, treasurer, Meghan Gross, secretary, Steven Mallory

Alternate Members: Elaine Kaczmarek, Frank Whittemore

Ex-officio:, Joe Pace, Selectmen Representative

Absent: Regular Members: Bob Gustafson

Alternates: Alan Tuthill, Ben Cole, Lorraine O’Keefe, Mike Schwotzer, Planning Board Representative

Call to order at 6:24 PM

As there was a quorum, no alternates were needed.

Minutes review from 12/18/19 meeting:

Change in Time and Date Corrected from **Fourth Thursday** to **Fourth Wednesday**.

Meghan Gross moved to approve the minutes as amended and Frank Whittemore seconded.

Minutes were then approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Facebook Page

Lynne posted about the agenda to tonight’s meeting on the Facebook page. We already have 44 followers! Lynne says she wants to take photos around town and post them with bits of information to interest townspeople. Lynne posted about Elaine’s easement and the town buildings at Christmas. Joe wrote a letter from the Selectmen supporting the library’s National Register nomination and suggested that it be posted to the page for everyone to read. Lynne asked about posting more content on the Town Heritage Commission webpage. The suggestion was that more people are on the Facebook page than on a website, but there could be links between them for larger things like the survey or nominations that need to be available permanently. Discussion ensued regarding the survey that is now twenty years old and needs to be updated.

Action: Joe will send the library letter to Lynne to post to the Facebook page. Additional time will be allotted at the next meeting to plan an update to the Resources of Kensington document.

Preserving Open Space

The mission of the Commission is to assist the Town in preserving/stewarding the historic rural character of Kensington. The Heritage Commission will try to support smart ways to manage change and growth. Lynne recommended Preserving Community Character: Ways to Manage Change a manual available through the NH Preservation Alliance.

Universalist Church:

As Ben Cole was absent, there was little new discussion.

Fun news that might relate to the Church: Steven got a call from a colleague about an important 1780s pipe organ that used to be located in Colonial Williamsburg, which has been removed from the Church in VA and is now in storage in Historic Jamestown. Steven's colleague's now has the pipe organ in their possession. Evidence suggests that this organ was commissioned by Thomas Jefferson in London for Monticello but was never installed there due to Jefferson's financial difficulties. Steven presented this idea to the Commission as a possible idea for the Universalist Church. He will store it if need be!

Action: Steven will keep us posted on the possibilities of having this famous small organ in Kensington. Ben will copy and distribute existing rehab plans to Commission members. *This has not happened yet.*

Rec Committee:

The Rec and Social Committee meeting scheduled for January 8 to discuss Old Home Days has still not been rescheduled. There was a regular Rec and Social Committee Meeting on January 8 but Meghan did not attend as the agenda items (summer camp and Sweetheart Dance) did not pertain to the Heritage Commission.

Action: Meghan will interact with the Rec Committee and inform the members when the new date and time for the Old Home Days meeting is decided. Meghan will present the Old Home Days materials that Lynne has emailed to her to the Rec and Social Committee.

Library Addition:

Elaine reported that there are three architects on the final list for proposals, and will keep the Committee abreast of things moving forward.

No Action

Library National Register Nomination:

Nomination should be reviewed by NHDHR Committee on 1/27, after which will be sent to the NPS.

No Action

Contra Dances:

Elaine Kaczmarek called Kathe Felch earlier this week and has not received any word back yet. Joe Pace reports that the item has not been brought up on the agenda in the Select Board meetings since we last met. Maximum occupancy is actually 145 people in the Town Hall.

Action: Steven will reach out to the fire chief, John True, to talk about the floor issue and to identify any concern/obstacle.

Parsonage:

Frank reports that the parsonage is under agreement.

No Action

Preservation Easements

Action: Elaine Kaczmarek is going to relax after her efforts to save Prescott Corners! Bravo!!

Old House and Barn Expo:

The NH Preservation Alliance is presenting the Old House and Barn Expo on March 21/22 this year and has invited all Commission members to attend and/or volunteer time. Meghan is the Expo Coordinator and can be contacted for further information. There are lectures, presenters that are helpful for Commission members.

Action: The Commission will post more news on the Expo as the date gets closer the on Facebook Page.

Select Board Warrant Article:

Joe Pace reported that on Monday night (1/20) the board voted to create a Warrant Article Article, Article 16, to create a Heritage Fund. The Selectmen recommended the Article and it will go before the Deliberative Session on February 5 and before the town voters in March. The fund will allow the Heritage Commission to accept property (but not without a vote at Town Meeting) and will allow the Commission to receive grant money and gifts. Joe suggests preparing a brief description of the kinds of things the Commission might use the Heritage Fund for.

Action: Warrant will be published shortly and a copy of the language will be distributed to members. Lynne and Joe will prepare something to read at the Deliberative Session.

OTHER BUSINESS

At 7:49 Bob S. called for a motion to adjourn; Steven M. seconded. Approved unanimously.

Next meeting will be February 26, 2020 at 6:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Meghan Gross, secretary
Lynne Monroe, chair