

Kensington Heritage Commission Meeting

April 28, 2021

Minutes

The meeting was held virtually using the Town's Zoom platform. The meeting was posted on the Town's website, so the public was able to attend. Sarah Wiggin, opened the meeting and was present to help as needed. Lynne Monroe hosted the meeting with her email and phone so that anyone who called in or wished to join could have done so easily.

Lynne Monroe read the Checklist to Ensure Meetings are Compliant with the Right-to-Know Law During the State of Emergency.

In Attendance:

Present:

Regular Members: Lynne Monroe, Chair; Elaine Kaczmarek, Secretary; Bob Gustafson, Treasurer and Selectmen's Representative, Meghan Gross, Joni Praded; Mike Schwotzer, Planning Board Representative

Alternate: Frank Whittemore

Absent:

Alternates: Ben Cole, Alan Tuthill, and Regular Member, Steven Mallory

Call to order at 6:18 PM

Minutes

The minutes from the March 24th meeting were reviewed and approved. Mike Schwotzer made the motion to accept, seconded by Frank Whittemore.

Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Members

Alan Tuthill's term expires in April and he has agreed to renew.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS

Grange Hall: The town approved the expenditure of \$15,000 to redo part of the roof, painting, stone work, electric and duct replacement from mouse damage. The Heritage Commission supports the work at the Grange

The Union Meeting House. Joni Praded reported a conversation with consultant Terry Knowles that affirmed that the Universalist Church can maintain its status as a church as the Universalists are no longer a denomination, it will meet the criteria by holding the summer Old Home Day service and being available for worship of all sects and denominations. The Friends of the Union Meeting House will be able to raise funds for the repairs to the building and hold community functions. They are applying for their 501c3 status and developing other materials. The first step is to get a proposal from the steeplejack highly recommended by Steven Mallory. This is the most pressing work needed for the building. Lynne and Steven will be working on a historic building assessment that will define the work needed including cost and priority. This will facilitate planning and fund-raising.

The Town Hall Shed. No news.

Planning Board. Following on the enthusiastic discussion regarding the need to maintain the town's rural character, there was discussion that the lifting of Covid restrictions would enable the Commission to do the inventory to update the existing survey of historic resources and identify critical landscapes. The idea is to work with the Conservation Commission to define the character defining places that contribute to the historic rural landscape that defines the town. And then to discuss methods for protecting them. Lynne will distribute electronic copies of the book "Preserving Community Character a Manual for Local Officials."

Free Advice. Following up on the visit with John and Joan Skewes. They attended a free workshop on Barn Maintenance held by the NH Preservation Alliance, and, they won the raffle for a FREE barn assessment by Ian Blackman!!!! Lynne has put together some information on the history of the farm that will help the effort and share it in Community News.

Charrette. Joni reminded the board of the conclusions reached at the charrette. (Some are already happening!) More activities will be planned to support this. Joni is considering the best ways to move forward with this effort.

Frank Whittemore made a motion to adjourn at 7:57 pm and it was seconded by Mike Schwotzer. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Next meeting will be May 26 at 6:15.