

# Kensington Heritage Commission Meeting

October 27, 2021

## Minutes

The meeting was held in person at the Town Hall. The meeting was posted on the Town's website, so the public was able to attend.

### **In Attendance:**

*Present:* Regular Members: Lynne Monroe, Chair; Bob Gustafson, Treasurer and Selectmen's Representative, Elaine Kaczmarek, Secretary, Meghan Gross

Alternate: Frank Whittemore

*Absent:* Mike Schwotzer, Planning Board Representative, Joni Praded, and Steven Mallory

Alternates: Ben Cole, Alan Tuthill

Call to order at 7:10 PM

Minutes: The minutes from the September 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting were reviewed. Meghan Gross made the motion to accept, seconded by Bob Gustafson. Approved unanimously.

### **OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS**

The Union Meetinghouse: Steven Mallory, Frank Whittemore and Lynne Monroe are doing measured drawings and photographs and studying the building for a building assessment in preparation for an LCHIP application in the spring. The drawings are complete and a template for the report has been established. The fire chief will not allow public meetings in the building except for religious purposes so no concerts or lectures until after the pandemic.

The Library: Elaine explained that the town does not own the library; therefore, in order to get a bond for an addition, the lease agreement with the town will need to be amended to satisfy the NH bond agency, the town and the Social Trustees.

The Planning Board: No discussion.

The Conservation Commission: Bob Gustafson reported that the Conservation Commission discussed the positive results of possibly working with the Heritage Commission.

The National Register nomination of the Town Center: No news.

The Brick School: The Historical Society is anticipating a substantial contribution from a former resident. They made \$6,000 at the yard sale this year! They have a quote from Window Woman to restore the windows, and they are obtaining other bids. Some discussion on the possible techniques for installing storm windows to protect the restored sash.

Town Center: Joni Praded was not able to attend the meeting, so no news on that front at present.

The agricultural character of the town is one of its main character defining features, but as the open land becomes housing, that character is eroded. The town has done much to buy land and obtain easements to protect this character. Frank Whittemore observed that many fields are no

longer being actively farmed either through grazing or mowing for hay. It will not take long for these fields to return to woodland thereby losing that open land to define the character of farming. He suggested that the Town could start a program to encourage and support keeping the fields open. Bob Gustafson offered that the Conservation Commission has similar concerns and could offer help with farmers willing to mow for hay. He will bring the subject to the Conservation Commission.

Bob Gustafson presented the issue of a new sign in front of the Town Hall as the Eagle Scout sign is in poor condition. He suggested that the Heritage Commission establish some guidance for signs and Town Buildings. Lynne Monroe offered to start the conversation with a suggestion and she will email it to members. Meghan Gross expressed her frustration with the necessity of not Heritage Commission members communicating only one on one or blind copy email. Lynne agreed and suggested following her email with a Zoom meeting/discussion that Sarah could post appropriately on the Town website.

Elaine Kaczmarek made a motion to adjourn at 7:43 pm and Frank Whittemore seconded it. Approved unanimously.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, November 24, 7:00 at the Town Hall.