

Kensington Heritage Commission Meeting

January 26, 2022

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; Meghan Gross, Secretary; Elaine Kaczmarek and Joni Praded

Alternates: Frank Whittemore and Alan Tuthill

Absent: Steven Mallory

Call to order at 7:03 PM

Minutes: The minutes from the November 30th meeting were reviewed. Meghan Gross made the motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Bob Gustafson. Approved unanimously.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS

The Union Meetinghouse: The project is progressing well. Building Assessment is almost finished and will be reviewed soon by the Trustees of the Union Meetinghouse. The Assessment is being prepared by Steven Mallory and Lynne Monroe. New keys are being made for the original lock.

The Library: No news regarding the library addition. The bronze plaque indicating National Register status will be installed soon. There is a picture in Community News.

Town Hall Sign: Frank identified the source for appropriate materials and will work on it soon so that Joan Webber has time to paint it before spring.

The Planning Board: Mike Schwotzer has resigned as the planning board representative. The Commission brainstormed various names who will be contacted to see if they are interested. Greenwood might be a good option.

The Conservation Commission: Frank reported that a lot of people are interested in keeping fields mowed in town. Bob says that the conservation land is mowed by contract with local farmers. Individual mowers keep it for silage. Contracts are in place to make sure things are being done the right way. Invasive species and habitat for wildlife are just a couple things to consider. Bob said that anyone who is interested in mowing get in touch with the Conservation Commission. The Heritage Commission is interested in keeping the agricultural character of the town as its primary character defining feature.

Historical Society: Contractor removed 5 of the 12 windows at the North School. There was discussion of the property for sale on 22 Trundle Bed Lane and the possibility that the Historical Society will be creating a museum there to display historic farm equipment and other artifacts.

Plan NH/Town Center: Joni reviewed several meeting minutes from our meetings and Planning Board meetings, and she feels that the Heritage Commission and Planning Board have been

discussing the Plan in different ways. She wants to clarify and suggest another approach. Board of Selectmen feel that the Heritage Commission members should assist the Selectboard, but should not be the lead team on the project. Joni suggests there should be another group that starts fresh and looks at those results. Some of the recommendations from the plan are no longer relevant. Lynne suggested that when the Town Center district nomination is completed, might be the perfect jumping off point for discussion of the town center. Bob reminded us that the Planning Board will be in the process of revising the Master Plan, and the Plan NH charette will be an integral part.

Action: Heritage Commission will review the current chapter on historic resources.

Incident at Exeter: Bob wondered where exactly the sign might be placed? It's a special thing for Kensington.

New Business

HC Housekeeping: Annual report is due. Lynne will circulate a draft.

Demolitions: Both the farmhouse on Dow Lane and the barn have been demolished very recently and the Heritage Commission was not aware of the demolition permits or the plans to demo either of the buildings. Going forward, the commission needs to coordinate with the Planning Board to be notified if historic resources are threatened with demolition. The Heritage Commission cannot prevent demolition, but at the very least they document the resources before they are gone, and at the most, they may be able to be able to help a property owner with an alternative to demolition.

Stratham Heritage Commission: Stratham Heritage Commission are willing to meet with us and offer support and suggestions. They are also working on fields as Stratham is an historically significant agricultural community like Kensington.

Action: Lynne will ask Becky Mitchell and Nate Merrill to come to a future meetings to talk with us.

Other ideas: Audio driving tour? Commission members think it's a great idea.

Frank Whittemore made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 pm; Elaine Kaczmarek seconded it. Approved unanimously.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 7:00 at the Town Hall.