

Kensington Heritage Commission Meeting

March 30, 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, Joni Praded, and Steven Mallory

Alternates: Frank Whittemore and Alan Tuthill

Absent: Planning Board Representative

Call to order at 7:05 PM

Minutes: The minutes from the February 23 meeting were reviewed. Lynne Monroe made the motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Bob Gustafson. Approved unanimously.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS

Membership:

Three memberships are expiring in March, Lynne Monroe, Elaine Kaczmarek and Frank Whittemore. All three were willing to be reappointed for three year terms and the commission approved unanimously, so they will visit the Town Clerk to make it official.

Two persons have been contacted to fill the vacant seats for a regular member and a representative from the Planning Board. Lynne has offered to be a Planning Board alternate if Vanessa Rozier will agree to be the HC's Planning Board representative. There has been no further conversation.

Planning Board Coordination:

Lynne Monroe attended a meeting of the Planning Board and showed them manuals on coordinating historic preservation goals with master planning efforts. She will work with them when the Master Plan committee is established. Bob Gustafson will be the Planning Board rep from the Selectboard as an alternate So the Heritage Commission will have a link to report Planning Board news to the Heritage Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

Field Visit to 14 Moulton Ridge Road: The Commission was contacted by the owner of the Eastman House offering to have the Commission investigate the very old house and talk with them about possibilities. This occurred on March 10th. Steven Mallory led the group providing a very detailed description of the building elements and Alan Tuthill brought an early letter describing the move from Shaw's Hill to Moulton Ridge Road. Lynne Monroe recorded the exploration on video and has made it accessible on DropBox, suggestion to put it on YouTube. The Commission submitted an article about the visit to Community News. They discussed a letter submitted by Norman DeBoisbriand outlining an idea to dismantle and move the Eastman House to another lot, but the project appeared beyond the scope and ability of the Heritage

Commission. Lynne will thank Norman for his enthusiasm which spurred us to further conversation. The Commission will encourage the owners to revive the building perhaps as a rental property for which they might consider utilizing the 20% investment tax credit for historic properties. The Commission will try to meet with them to suggest these alternatives. If nothing can be done to maintain the house on the site, the Commission will document it for future understanding of building practices in Kensington.

Cemetery Trustees: The Cemetery Trustees are starting a project to survey and assess the town's cemeteries. The Heritage Commission would like to assist in any way possible. Lynne will send them samples of survey forms both blank and completed for their consideration. Hopefully the town's cemeteries can be entered into the state's survey records. In the discussion they noted that there are two slave burial plots on the Horse property on Drinkwater Road. They were recorded some years ago. Question: Do the current owners of the property know of the slave plots? Lynne will ask former property owner, Barbara Carpenter, and Michael Bruss, current project manager. The Black Heritage Trail might be contacted. Elaine Kaczmarek remembered that Nat Potts once handed her a folder with research that she had been doing on slaves in Kensington. Elaine will try to find it.

NHDOT Letter: As chair of the Heritage Commission, Lynne received a letter from NHDOT asking for comments on a culvert replacement on Rte.150 near Hudson Drive. Lynne replied that there is some evidence of the original stone culvert even though it was replaced mid-twentieth century by a corrugated pipe. The Conservation Commission has also been contacted. The stream beneath is connected to one of the few streams left locally with native trout in it. NHDOT review the project and move the investigation to the next level.

Old Home Days: Meghan reported for the Recreation commission that no date has been set for Old Home Days. What can the HC contribute? The Union Meeting House will hold the traditional service on Sunday. A full -on tour of old homes seems too much given Covid. Leading walking tours of the town center historic district seems easy and useful. Possibly open the Grange with a display of agricultural equipment and/or seed exchange (Historical Society)

Sign for the Town Hall: Frank has finished building the sign and will take it to Joan Webber to paint the letters. Bob Gustafson will help site it at the Town Hall.

Corn Crib: At the last Historical Society meeting, Joan Webber pointed out that the only known corn crib in town on Wild Pasture Road has a failing roof. She is very concerned. She wondered if the Heritage Commission could "do" anything about it. Frank and Lynne offered to have a conversation with the owner of the corn crib and its importance to the agricultural character of the Town. Perhaps the Commission could help with the roof somehow?

Union Meetinghouse: Assessment will be complete in the next few days and then the trustees will write a grant application for LCHIP to fund renovations.

Other: Meghan will not be present at April meeting and Joni will take notes for her.

Frank Whittemore made a motion to adjourn at 8:21 pm; Elaine Kaczmarek seconded it. Approved unanimously.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, April 27, 2022, 7:00 at the Town Hall.