

Kensington Heritage Commission Meeting

June 22, 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

Alternates: Frank Whittemore, Alan Tuthill; Joni Praded

Absent: Planning Board Representative; Elaine Kaczmarek and Steven Mallory

Call to order at 7:06 PM

As there was a quorum, no alternates were needed.

Minutes: The minutes from the May 25 meeting were reviewed. Bob Gustafson made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Alan Tuthill. Approved unanimously. Joni and Meghan abstained as they were not present at the last meeting.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS

Planning Board Rep: The planning board has not offered a replacement for Mike Schwotzer. Lynne will contact them again. Until that can be arranged, Bob Gustafson, as the Selectman's Representative and alternate, receives the minutes as they are posted. He will read them with an eye to anything that might pertain to applications or Planning Board efforts that would be of interest to the Heritage Commission and report on them.

Cemetery News: Lynne has been in contact with the Cemetery Trustees. They are hosting a workshop on taking care of gravestones in Kensington on June 29th. Lynne, Frank, Meghan and Alan volunteered to attend. It will be held in the Upper Yard which is in very bad condition. The slate markers are broken and have lichen growing on them. Jacqueline Benson, chair of the Cemetery Trustees, is arranging the workshop for several towns. There is a folder in the library on the slave graves at Yorkfield Farm, and the new owner is going to send the results of the archeological study that has been done recently.

14 Moulton Ridge Road: Lynne resent photos and videos to the property owner. Frank discussed the situation with them and they are willing to have the Commission take the building away, but not willing to leave the building in place. There was some discussion about the options of salvaging parts of the building or even moving it. The buildings are not sufficiently intact to interest someone in the expense of moving them to a new lot and rehabbing them, so at least there can be some documentation before it is demolished.

Old Home Days: Meaghan reported from the Rec Committee. The Historical Society will head the Scavenger Hunt with input from the Heritage Commission and others. The Heritage Commission will give walking tours: At 2:00 starting in the Parking Lot, lasting 30-60 minutes, possibly 2, depending on what time other activities are happening. Home and garden tours have been popular in the past and the Heritage Commission could host something like that again in the future. Possibly next year after Covid is of less concern.

Town Hall Sign: The sign was at meeting, so the members went outside to assess the best way and location for mounting it. It will be decided at another meeting on Wednesday morning.

Corn Crib: Frank talked to the owner and Lynne took some photos. The owner said he would like help to stabilize the roof. Frank and Alan are willing to go put a tarp on it to protect it. Since that conversation, no action has occurred.

Union Meetinghouse: The LCHIP application has been submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

Buxton House: The visit was interesting as the house was empty. Alan, Frank, Lynne, and Steven were able to go and tour the house and photograph the interior. Steven suggested that we document interiors of properties that are for sale and can be viewed without a problem.

Stratham Barn: Joni asked for a recommendation for someone to come look at a friend's barn in Stratham to come give some advice. The owners want to explore what they can do to stabilize the barn, where they can find grant money, etc. Lynne suggests for them to talk to the Stratham Heritage Commission and the NH Preservation Alliance, but as friends, we could also go at look at the barn and make suggestions.

Grange Hall: Frank went to a Selectmen's meeting a while ago and heard that the town is thinking about selling the Grange Hall. The Grange was given to the town and the story of ownership is kind of "fuzzy." Right now, the town creates warrant articles each year for money that goes towards maintaining the Grange, but Bob explained that the building maintenance is not listed regularly in the town budget because it would add to the tax roll so there is no money allocated to the Grange yearly. Discussion ensued about how to use the building as a community space. This brought up other issues in the Town Center, e.g., space for a new safety complex, crosswalks and sidewalks, vacant buildings, the National Register district. It seems that these issues suggest a gathering for a conversation, and that might be hosted partially by the Heritage Commission.

Alan Tuthill made a motion to adjourn at 8:33 pm; Bob Gustafson seconded it. Approved unanimously.

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