

# Kensington Heritage Commission Meeting

October 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; Meghan Gross, Secretary

*Alternates:* Frank Whittemore, Elaine Kaczmarek, Alan Tuthill

*Absent:* Planning Board Representative; Joni Praded; Steven Mallory; Bob Gustafson, Treasurer and Selectmen's Representative

Call to order at 7:12 PM

Minutes: The minutes from the September 28 meeting were reviewed. Elaine Kaczmarek made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Alan Tuthill. Approved unanimously.

### **OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS**

Cemetery News: Meghan had reached out to the Cemetery Trustees and reported that there are no updates at this time. Halloween? Cemetery tours would be considered in the Upper Yard, but not in Lower Yard, as the Cemetery Trustees want to be sensitive to families of the recently deceased. A "spring cleaning" is planned but there are no details at this time.

Grange: Meghan and Frank reported that the Grange Trustees had met this morning, October 26, to talk about upcoming maintenance and repair needs in 2023. Projects include painting remaining 2 sides, roof repair, insulating basement, pest management, and improving acoustics. There is much conversation about the future use of the Grange, which dovetails with the issue of the Charette and the Town Center, below. Lynne offered to arrange a field trip to Salem to see the good things they are doing with their building as a community center and museum. The NH Preservation Alliance has shared several examples of other Grange buildings that function as community centers, etc. and Meghan passed out a copy of these examples to the Commission members.

Action: Lynne will call Bob G. to discuss BOS plans for Grange Hall, as he was not in attendance at the meeting. (Done. The Selectmen want help to know what a good use for the Grange would be. The Community Center/Museum sounds like a good idea.) The Heritage Commission will work with the Grange Trustees to sponsor an open meeting to discuss the future use of the Grange.

Old Home Days Walking Tour: The tour was hard due to the difficulty walking from the upper to the lower town center because of safety issues along the road (i.e., no sidewalks, fast traffic). These issues were discussed at the Charrette, but nothing has happened since, so the meeting above is very important.

Union Meetinghouse: Lynne reported that she is hopeful that they might receive the LCHIP Grant which will be announced in the next several weeks. There will be no Thanksgiving service this year.

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Town Center: Historic District Nomination is almost finished. (October 27- new photographs were shot and in-house review is in process.) There are many new things happening in the Town Center—Besides the Grange, the Universalist Church/Union Meetinghouse is in active mode waiting for word on their grant application to LCHIP; The Congregational Church has completed excellent work on their blinds and other elements and is working on ideas to involve the community in the building's use; the Library is discussing a large addition; Elaine Prescott has been working hard on the restoration of the Hilliard-Prescott House and Barn. And yet, the problems that were identified in 2017—difficulty walking between the two ends of town, difficulty crossing the street safely, lack of gathering places—coffee shops and such, still remain. As discussed at prior meetings, the Heritage Commission would also like to restart the conversation about the future of the Town Center in general and revisit ideas and findings from the 2017 Plan NH Community Design Charette. The Heritage Commission will arrange a planning meeting with community leaders to plan the roundtable- all agree that it is critical to get this meeting arranged ASAP. Meghan will send the Charette report to Lynne so she can distribute to the Commission members.

UFO Sign Update: Lynne had a conversation with Pam Gjetum, member of the Congregational Church and UFO enthusiast, and was told that her group will be applying for a highway marker regarding the “Incident at Exeter” to be installed in Kensington where the sighting actually took place.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Harlow Carpenter's Shed Project: The extraordinary painted shed on Drinkwater Road was demolished in early October. Lynne had made an agreement with owner of the property and former owner Barbara Carpenter to move shed to Sawyer Park. The Fire Department had also agreed *not* to burn it down during their drills on the house, but sadly, communication broke down and the shed was demolished. It is a sad loss.

Warrant Article: There discussion as to whether or not to present a warrant article for \$100 or \$200 for the Heritage Fund so that we have something in the account. Elaine made a motion to ask for \$100 on a warrant article in 2023. Frank seconded the motion. Approved unanimously. Lynne will write a draft warrant article and send to members. Postscript: The next day, Lynne and Elaine met and agreed that they were uncomfortable about this vote. So Elaine made a motion to rescind it, and Lynne seconded it. This motion was sent to the Heritage Commission by email and all of the members that had been present voted to not present this article to the town. Text of the email for the vote:

Hello Commission.

At last Wednesday's meeting we voted to submit a warrant article to the town for \$100. This was for no particular purpose except to call attention to the fact that we could have money if we needed to. Yesterday, I ran into Elaine in the Town Center and we got to talking. She said she was having all sorts of second thoughts about that motion and was wondering if we could revisit it before the minutes went out to the Town. I suggest that we can revisit it right now by this email. The minutes that are attached have a write-up of the motion at the meeting. After I have your votes, I will amend the minutes to reflect the old and the new motions if we have a vote to rescind it. So here is the motion from Elaine:

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**Elaine Kaczmarek: I make a motion to rescind the motion regarding submitting a warrant article for \$100 that I made at our meeting last Wednesday. I think it is unnecessary and makes us look foolish.**

**Lynne Monroe: I second this motion for the reasons stated by Elaine Kaczmarek. Will you all please reply to this email with your vote, YES or NO.**

**All of the Commission Members that had been present at the meeting responded with “YES” please rescind this vote.**

Other Business: The Town Hall benches have been delivered to Sanborn Mills Farm. They will be restored and there will be a sign regarding their history.

Frank Whittemore made a motion to adjourn at 8:05pm; Alan Tuthill seconded it. Approved unanimously.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, November 30, 2022, 7:00 at the Town Hall.

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