

Kensington Heritage Commission Meeting

January 31, 2024

Minutes- **DRAFT**

The meeting was held in person at the Kensington 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: Alan Tuthill; Frank Whittemore

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

Call to order at 7:07 PM

Minutes: There was no December meeting and therefore no minutes were reviewed and approved.

BUSINESS

Grange: The Grange is still shut down for the winter season but Trustees are getting inquiries for events this coming spring already. There are currently 3 event applications being processed.

Union Meetinghouse: Rehabilitation is progressing and on schedule. No services will be held this summer because the building will be under construction.

Library: Library Trustees and town trustees met last week to review five architect submissions and chose 2 of the 5 to proceed. Lynne has made a recommendation that the Heritage Commission can be helpful in obtaining correct bricks and mortar to match the historic materials, and also the correct paint to match the brownstone trim. The designs appear to be respectful of the historic building. Careful maintenance of mature trees is encouraged.

Historical Society: The Historical Society's Collections intern has signed on for another semester to continue digitizing the collections. She will be in touch with Alan to take photos and document the equipment in his barn and collection of indigenous artifacts that were found in Kensington. There was discussion of the extensive collection of artifacts that have been discovered in Kensington and how to make that story known.

National Register Nomination, Town Center Historic District: Lynne spoke at a meeting held by the selectmen to reassure people that the National Register Listing will impose no restrictions on what property owners, including the Town, can or can't do with their property. Listing is purely honorary. She has been in conversation with NHDHR and the selectboard within the past few weeks, and as there is still some discomfort with the process, they decided to move the review of the nomination until the April meeting of the NH Site Review Board. In the meantime, we will organize a public information meeting to present the nomination and allow for additional public discussion. Megan Rupnik the

National Register reviewer from NHDHR will come to reassure people. The Heritage Commission will plan to make it a celebration and fun event to show the town that the nomination is a positive thing! Lynne distributed three copies of the nomination for the public to view at the library. March would be a good time to host the public meeting. It will be advertised on the town website, Kensington Connects, at the library, town hall, etc.

PlanNH Charette/Town Center: Since all members were not present, the Commission tabled this discussion until the next meeting.

New members: Lynne reiterated the fact that we need a Planning Board representative. Meghan will talk to Angeline McLane to see if her husband, Justin, who is on the Planning Board, might be interested in joining us.

NEW BUSINESS

Other Business:

The Historical Society received an Invitation to Comment letter today from an environmental consulting firm undertaking the Federal Section 106 review on the proposed Vertex cell tower on Moulton Ridge Road. Meghan forwarded the email to Lynne because the Heritage Commission wasn't included as a consulting party on the letter. Lynne is going to forward the Heritage Commission's study from March 2023 that described the Commission's findings during the balloon test last year.

The NH Preservation Alliance is hosting the 10th Old House and Barn Expo on March 16 & 17 at Saint Anselm College. The Heritage Commission members are invited to attend- it will be a weekend full of presentations, demonstrations, and exhibitors all related to historic buildings.

Brief discussion of the original roads in Kensington. The Dearborn Causeway is one of the most interesting roads in town. Roland Sawyer tells some really interesting stories about these abandoned roads in his history book. Lynne proposed that Alan write some of these stories for the Community News.

Meghan Gross made a motion to adjourn at 7:47pm; Frank Whittemore seconded it. Approved unanimously.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, February 28, 2023, 7:00 at the Town Hall.