

Kensington Heritage Commission Meeting

September 23, 2020

Minutes – **DRAFT**

The meeting was held virtually using the Town's Zoom platform. The meeting was posted on the Town's website so the public was able to attend. Sarah Wiggin, Deputy Town Clerk opened the meeting and was present to help as needed. Lynne Monroe hosted the meeting with her email and phone so that anyone who called in or wished to join could have done so easily.

Lynne Monroe read the Checklist to Ensure Meetings are Compliant with the Right-to-Know Law During the State of Emergency.

In Attendance:

Present:

Regular Members: Lynne Monroe, Chair; Secretary, Elaine Kaczmarek

Ad Hoc Members: Bob Solomon, Selectmen's Representative

Alternates: Ben Cole; Frank Whittemore

Absent:

Regular Members: Steven Mallory,

Ad Hoc Member: Mike Schwotzer, Planning Board Representative; Bob Gustafson, Treasurer, Conservation Commission Representative

Alternates: Alan Tuthill

Call to order at 6:22 PM

Minutes

review from 8/24/20 meeting

Frank Whittemore made a motion to accept the minutes and Bob Solomon seconded. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Members

There are vacancies to fill. Lorraine O'Keefe was serving as an alternate for a one-year term and she has resigned for personal reasons. Bob Solomon pointed out that as the ad hoc positions were separate from the regular membership, his term as a regular member serving a two-year term should also be filled, so there are two positions open to complete two-year terms. Suggestion to put the word out on Kensington Connects, Community News, and the Historical Society.

OLD BUSINESS

Plan NH/Town Center Committee

Bob Solomon opened discussion regarding creating a committee to review the NH Charrette recommendations for the Town Center. A charrette Group was formed by previous selectmen and the minutes of their two meetings in June and August 2018 are online. The Charrette addressed issues in the Town Center, but they have never been discussed, so it seems worthy to resurrect a committee for this purpose. The Heritage Commission has a particular interest in this committee because it concerns the Town Center, a rare and significant collection of historic buildings that has defined the civic center of Kensington for 300 years. It is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Planning for the civic improvements will include reflection on the character of the buildings.

Universalist Church

Ben Cole reported that the Universalist Church has been transferred to a new board of Trustees. They will have their first meeting on October 12th. The plan is to restore the church to serve some sort of community use, lecture and concert hall, weddings and funerals, etc. They have applied to be recognized as one of NH Seven to Save which will be announced on October 20th.

Farm Equipment

Frank Whittemore reported that the Evans visited on August 28th and the Historical Society hosted an outdoor wine and cheese gathering in Alan Tuthill's barnyard and discussed the project. There is a great deal of enthusiasm about a possible museum as there is so much agricultural history in Kensington. (Harry Bodwell and Carl Brewer kept small museums of farm memorabilia.)

The Library

Elaine Kaczmarek reported that the Library Trustees would accept the offer of a bronze National Register plaque for the Library. Lynne Monroe will look into purchasing one that is like the others in town.

The Congregational Church

Lynne Monroe presented the Commendation for Stewardship to be awarded to the Church for their recent efforts to preserve the building, including obtaining NH State Register listing, commissioning an excellent paint job and historically accurate new blinds. The commission voted unanimously to make the commendation. Lynne showed the final document, but suggested presentation to the Church be delayed so that the photo might be replaced after the new blinds were installed.. A suggestion was made that the commission create a program of awards/commendations for stewardship efforts of other historic buildings in town. The feeling was positive, but no details were discussed.

The Dingman Property on South Road

Steven Mallory expressed concern that the large tract of land seemed to be going to development and as there is an 18th century house on it asked if there was any protection being discussed. Bob Gustafson reported on efforts of the Conservation Commission and Mike Schwotzer the Planning Board. The Heritage Commission is concerned as open farmland is one of the principal character defining features of Kensington and supports the efforts of the Conservation Commission and SELT.

Carl Rezendes Property on Moulton Ridge

Steven Mallory asked if we knew the future of Carl's property as it is a significant historic property. Frank Whittemore said that he believed that Carl's sister, Mary was using it as a retreat for herself. The suggestion was made that the Heritage Commission meet informally with her to discuss this and thoughts on the Universalist Church.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Frank Whitemore made a motion to adjourn at 7:25 pm, seconded by Bob Solomon. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Next meeting will be October 28, 2020 at 6:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Kaczmarek, secretary
Lynne Monroe, chair