

Kensington Heritage Commission Meeting

June 20, 2019

Minutes – **DRAFT**

In Attendance:

Present: Regular Members: Lynne Monroe, chair, Meghan Gross, secretary, Bob Gustafson

Alternate Members: Frank Whittemore

Ex-Officio: Joe Pace, Selectmen's Representative

New member nominee: Alan Tuthill

Absent: Regular Members: Steven Mallory, Bob Solomon, treasurer

Alternates: Ben Cole, Elaine Kaczmarek, Lorraine O'Keefe

Ex-officio: Planning Board Representative, to be appointed

Call to order at 7:07 PM

Even though there was a quorum of regular members, alternate Frank Whittemore was voted to serve as a regular member for this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes:

Meghan Gross moved and Frank Whittemore seconded to approve the minutes from the May 16 meeting. Approved unanimously.

Procedural Rules:

Joe Pace suggested a few changes to the Procedural Rules to bring them in compliance with the NH RSA. The draft had been distributed to the commission by email so there was minimal discussion. Meghan Gross moved and Bob Gustafson seconded to adopt the Procedural Rules as presented. Approved unanimously.

Action: Lynne will send the updated version of the Procedural Rules to Kathy to post.

New Member:

Alan Tuthill was nominated by consensus as an alternate member for a 2-year term.

Action: Joe will bring this to the attention of the Board of Selectmen so they can appoint him.

Alan will go to Town Hall to be sworn in.

Website

As communication with the public is one of the primary goals of the commission, there was interest in having the best presence possible on the web. A Heritage Commission page has been created on the town website, but it is only one page, suitable for minutes and agendas and event announcements perhaps. There was discussion of additional documents and resources that could be posted to the website, perhaps just as links. A separate Heritage Commission website would be a good addition. Ben Cole has offered help. A Facebook page will be set up for the Heritage Commission to create a social media presence.

Action: Lynne will start working on the Facebook page and consult with members before posting. Separate website to be tabled until Ben can assist.

Barn Easements

The Commission reviewed the material provided by the Assessor regarding the number of Barn Easements already existing in the Town; there are eight currently. The Heritage Commission can identify other barns in town that may be eligible for the barn easement. They can make a list using the “Architectural Resources of Kensington” book that surveys all resources in Town. The group will then contact and inform barn owners with information.

Action: Commission members will meet outside of regular meeting to make a list of barns, then discover the names of owners to be contacted. A date for the work session will be decided, and posted for public notice.

Universalist Church

Ben Cole has been working on creating a 501c3 for the Church. He will report on his efforts at the July meeting. Lynne recommended a program on NHPR on the topic of helping historic churches in NH. Link was sent by email. This could be useful to the Congregational Church as well.

Action: None. Ben Cole will report at July meeting.

Plan NH

Lynne called Plan NH and has left a message but has yet to hear back. Discussion about benefits of having the Heritage Commission be part of the Plan NH effort and continuing the conversation. Perhaps create an event as an anniversary of the Charrette?

NEW BUSINESS

NHPA conference

Presentation: Meghan Gross presented her experience at the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance’s May conference, specifically meeting other towns’ Heritage Commissions and members.

Discussion: Getting the word out about Heritage Commission to public and ways we can do that. Idea proposed to have a Heritage Commission table at the Historical Society yard sale to promote our role and mission. Important to get kids involved! Possible barn and/or farm tour? Alan Tuthill would be willing to give a tour of his barn. Need handouts for the table? We could adapt some of the current written material into an informational handout that we can use at future events. Walking tours? Walking Tour booklet already exists. Discussion of working more closely with other committees in town. Meghan offered to be a liaison with the Rec and Social Committee.

Action: Meghan may go to the next Rec and Social Committee meeting.

Library Addition:

Presentation: The Library is interviewing architects to design a new addition to the historic Library to enhance the children’s space, create storage and a meeting room for fifty persons. The Heritage Commission is interested as the Library is one of the most architecturally significant buildings in town. Frank Whittemore provided an update on the addition: The Building Committee is interviewing three architects before developing a warrant article to create the fund for the architect’s work. Funds needed projected at \$20-30k. Consensus that addition would be useful for school children and programs, but that the Building Committee should be advised to ask questions about experience with historic buildings and use of the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Historic Preservation. The Library is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in honor of its 125th anniversary next year!

Action: None at this time

Town Center

Discussion: The Charrette identified several underutilized buildings in the town center. Problems for revitalizing town center include the lack of tax-paying entities in town center. Question of desirability of encouraging business investment in buildings like the Universalist Church. Discussion of other ways to attract people to town center. Possibly a farmer's market in the municipal parking lot? Importance of community and getting folks out to meet neighbors. Rethinking of ideas that were discussed at the Plan NH charette. Discussion of future of community center and ways to "do it right" to get people to come.

Action: Joe will look at ordinance and see what's allowable as far as a farmer's market.

Review of other potential projects

None at the moment.

At 8:38 Bob Gustafson made the motion to adjourn and Frank Whittemore seconded, approved unanimously.

Next meeting will be Thursday, July 18.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynne Monroe, chair
Meghan Gross, secretary