

Kensington Heritage Commission Meeting

September 17, 2019

Minutes – **DRAFT**

In Attendance:

Present: Regular Members: Lynne Monroe, chair, Meghan Gross, secretary, Steven Mallory

Alternate Members: Elaine Kaczmarek, Lorraine O'Keefe

Absent: Regular Members: Bob Gustafson, Bob Solomon, treasurer

Alternates: Ben Cole, Frank Whittemore, Alan Tuthill

Ex-officio: Joe Pace, Selectmen's Representative, Planning Board Representative?

Call to order at 7:11 PM

As there was a quorum, no alternates were needed.

Minutes:

Meghan Gross moved and Elaine Kaczmarek seconded to approve the minutes from the August 15 meeting. Approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

New Members:

Bob Solomon reported by email:

I attended the planning board meeting on 9/17 and was able to finally speak at 9:45pm. I proposed a liaison between the Heritage Commission and Planning Board with the goal of keeping abreast of issues relevant to both boards. I suggested that attendance at every second meeting would be adequate, but no members volunteered, so I left it that any interested members would email me or come to a Heritage Commission Meeting.

Action: Heritage Commission to discuss how the boards might interact.

Plan NH:

Bob Solomon reported by email: I spoke with Kathy who told me that the previous select board withheld version 0 of the Plan NH report, as there was one minor item which they wanted changed. Plan NH apparently made that change and she has the final version of the report. She will check with Joe Pace to be sure that she can circulate it publicly.

Action: Bob will follow up to with Kathy to enable the Heritage Commission to view the book.

Carl Rezendes:

Carl died on September 9th. There will be a service for him at 11am on September 28 in the Universalist Church. The tribute letter from the Heritage Commission will be copied and distributed to attendees at the service. The Commission would like the tribute letter to be hung at the Library and the Universalist Church. Steven Mallory suggested something more 3D as a long-term tribute to Carl that could be displayed in town. Lorraine suggested a bench with Carl's name engraved, Lynne suggested that it might also have Stanley Underhill's name on it and be in the garden that he designed at the Library. Elaine suggested something at the Universalist Church.

Action: Members will attend Carl's memorial service on Saturday, September 28 and continue conversation about a more substantial tribute.

Facebook Page

Lynne reported that she hadn't done much on the Facebook page since she made it. She asked for suggestions on things to include on the page. Members discussed the idea of mentioning historic resources that are for sale in town, but then decided that would be inappropriate. Events that use historic buildings or seminars relating to historic resources or old photographs of buildings in Town or little histories or ?

Action: Lynne will post things as appropriate, members will help create material.

Universalist Church:

Lynne spoke with members of LCHIP about the Church when they were in Town, and discussed the possibility of a planning study through the NH Preservation Alliance. Ben has mentioned trying to start a 501c3 organization and hopefully he will share his efforts with the commission soon. Lynne asked about the idea that the Town may be able use eminent domain as tool to preserve the Church. The Heritage Commission can own property and could raise funds for its preservation through a Heritage Fund. This technique was used successfully a few years ago by the City of Concord to save the Rolf Barn. Using Eminent Domain to save a building rather than eliminating a building is wonderful irony.

Action: Ben will offer his information soon and the conversation will continue.

State Highway Marker

No action has yet been taken, but Steven Mallory and Lynne Monroe are very interested in pursuing the project. There is an application and fee through NHDHR.

Action: The Commission will hold a working meeting for members who are interested in working on the application and marker text. Date TBD.

Rec Committee:

Meghan Gross was not able to attend the September Rec Committee Meeting due to misinformation about the meeting date. The next meeting is the second week of October.

Action: Meghan will attend the October meeting and report back to Heritage Commission.

Library Addition:

Elaine reported that there was no new news on the library addition. The Sawyer room renovations have been planned and include getting rid of the wooden chairs and replacing them with leather couches and stackable chairs. The projector will be located between the bookcases on the southwest wall. Library is considering selling chairs as an estate sale to make more room for programs; the Commission felt strongly that they should be preserved in Town, perhaps in the Town Hall. The Sawyer Room could become a research center if an addition is built.

Other library news: The Library National Register of Historic Places nomination is ready for review. The Heritage Commission agreed to be the nominator and the nomination will be a gift to the library for its 125th birthday.

Action: Lynne will distribute NR Nomination via email for the Heritage Commission members and Library Trustees and Staff to review. Then it will be submitted to NHDHR for the Review Board's Fall meeting.

Barn Easements:

No new news.

Action: No action at present.

NEW BUSINESS

- Preservation Company has been working on a NR district nomination for the Town Center. Steven Mallory offered to help work on it.
- Lynne was contacted by Glen Coppleman who manages the monthly Contra Dance in Kingston. (That dance was held in the Kensington Town Hall for many years. It moved to Kingston several years ago when a prior board of Selectmen felt dancing could ruin the floors.) The Kingston Town Hall will be closed for renovations and Glen wondered if Kensington might host the dance again. Commission members thought that having dances in the Town buildings is a great idea. Lynne will work with Glen and the Town to set it up and Elaine will go to the selectmen's meeting and ask permission.
- Meghan Gross asked about a building on Route 150 which is in very poor condition. It is the hip roof Federal Style building with a stone wall on the road. Someone knew that the Keogh Family used to own it, but relatives who do not live there now own it. There was concern that the building could be in danger.
Action: Elaine will do some research at Town Hall. Deeds are available online for more information.

OTHER BUSINESS

At 8:11 Lynne Monroe called for a motion to adjourn; Steven Mallory and Elaine Kaczmarek seconded. Approved unanimously.

Next meeting will be October 17, 2019

Respectfully submitted,
Meghan Gross, secretary
Lynne Monroe, chair