

Kensington Heritage Commission Meeting

October 17, 2019

Minutes – **DRAFT**

In Attendance:

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

Alternate Members: Elaine Kaczmarek, Alan Tuthill, Frank Whittemore, Ben Cole

Absent: Regular Members: Bob Gustafson, Steven Mallory

Alternates: Lorraine O'Keefe

Ex-officio: Joe Pace, Selectmen's 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 September 17 meeting. Approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Universalist Church:

Ben Cole reported on his activities regarding the Universalist Church. About a year ago, he grew was concerned about its situation in the Town Center and its poor condition, so he decided to investigate. He started talking to Carl Rezendes, the only surviving member/trustee of the Universalist Church. Carl came to trust him and turned over church records and other documents to Ben. He began the formation of a 501c3 organization to enable the transfer of the property, but Carl's health declined and he never signed paperwork to enable the transfer. Ben is continuing to work on the creation of a non-profit organization to hold the property, and there is a list of people that are willing to be Trustees if that solution is utilized. Carl's sister has a keen interest in Historic Preservation and is eager to help us do the right thing by the building. There was discussion that the Heritage Commission can hold property, but we will need to enable a Heritage Fund at the next Town Meeting.

Action: Commission will keep this item on the agenda indefinitely and work with Ben to come up with the most appropriate plans for the building's future. Ben will copy and distribute existing rehab plans to Commission members.

New Members:

Mike Schwotzer was present. He has offered to be the planning board liaison to or member of the Heritage Commission.

Action: Mike will ask the Selectmen to appoint him as at their next meeting.

Report on Carl Rezendes:

The Gold-framed proclamation will be hung in the Grange beneath the gold clock. It was used several times during Carl's memorial service. Carl's sister thought that a memorial bench that also honored Carl's partner, Stanley Underhill, was a great idea.

Action: Elaine will bring it up to the Library Trustees to talk it over and see if the bench may fit somewhere at the library. If not, locations in the cemetery will be discussed. Lynne stressed that the bench must be carefully chosen as Carl was very particular about such things!!

Facebook Page

Meghan suggested adding more information on the “About” section on the Facebook page. Also suggested posting something inviting townspeople to comment on how to memorialize Carl, as many in town knew him.

Action: Lynne will post something to the page.

Rec Committee:

Meghan Gross tried to attend the October Rec and Social Committee Meeting, but only one other member showed up and the meeting was cancelled. Meghan gave her contact information so the Committee can contact her for further meetings.

Action: Meghan will attend the November meeting, if there is one, and report back to Heritage Commission at our next meeting.

Library Addition:

Elaine reported that there was no news regarding the addition this month. The Sawyer Room is being redecorated and the straight back chairs are being removed. Lynne suggested that they were somewhat historic and should be treated as such. Elaine said that there are no plans for the chairs yet, but perhaps the Library Trustees will offer them to other town buildings.

Action: No action at this time.

Library National Register Nomination:

Lynne distributed the draft nomination to the Commission and a few members reviewed it and approved it as written.

Action: The Commission (Lynne) will submit the draft to the National Park Service in commemoration of the library’s 125th birthday.

Plan NH:

Lynne distributed the Plan NH report to the Commission members by email. Kathy says there are no issues prohibiting the distribution of the report and will eventually upload it to the town website. There are several issues relevant to the town center that are of interest to the Heritage Commission. The Heritage Commission won’t be the lead of the Charette discussion, but will have an important voice in the conversation.

Action: Bob will reconnect with Kathy about posting the report on the town website on its own Charette page.

Barn Easements:

Question: How do we encourage barn owners to utilize the easement? An article in the Community News is one possibility, but it might not target the few people that are eligible closely enough.

Action: Lynne will distribute barn easement information to Commission members again. Alan will look through the Kensington inventory book and make a list of possible barns and owners that we can contact.

Contra Dances:

Lynne spoke to Glen Coppleman about bringing the Friday Night Dance to Kensington. They visited the Grange and he was very enthusiastic about moving to that building. They met with Carol who said that the Grange charges \$100 an hour, plus they required event insurance that would cost another \$100. Glenn said that they are able to pay only around \$50/per night as that's what they've been paying in Kingston. He has now obtained an insurance policy that covers the dances. Another issue at the Grange is the heat and water shut off during the winter, and difficult parking. The Commission felt that the Town Hall would be a much better space for a dance with a long-term monthly commitment.

Action: Elaine will try to get us on the agenda for an upcoming selectman's meeting and she and Glen will talk with the Selectmen about hosting the dances in the town hall.

NEW BUSINESS

- Universalist Church Parsonage is for sale. Lynne has offered to do a write-up on the history so the realtor can pass it out to prospective buyers.
- Town Hall has a new sign. We will suggest to the selectmen that they could talk with the Heritage Commission before making changes that affect the Town Center. We have professionals on the Commission who could be helpful.

OTHER BUSINESS

At 8:27 Frank Whittemore called for a motion to adjourn; Elaine Kaczmarek seconded. Approved unanimously.

Next meeting will be November 21, 2019

Respectfully submitted,
Meghan Gross, secretary
Lynne Monroe, chair