

# Kensington Heritage Commission Meeting

May 25, 2022

## Minutes

The meeting was held in person at the 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; Bob Gustafson, Treasurer and Selectmen's Representative; Meghan Gross, Secretary

*Alternates:* Frank Whittemore, Alan Tuthill; Joni Praded

*Absent:* Planning Board Representative; Elaine Kaczmarek. Steven Mallory

Call to order at 7:06 PM

As there was a quorum, no alternates were needed.

Minutes: The minutes from the March 25 meeting were reviewed. Bob Gustafson made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Alan Tuthill. Approved unanimously. Joni and Meghan abstained as they were not present at the last meeting.

### **OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS**

Planning Board Rep: The planning board has not offered a replacement for Mike Schwotzer. Lynne will contact them again. Bob offered to relate anything pertinent on the PB notes, since he is an alternate and reads through the notes after the meetings.

Cemetery News: Lynne has been in email contact with the Cemetery Trustees (CT). There is particular concern with the Upper Cemetery because of the very bad condition of the slate markers. Many are broken and have lichen growing on them. Jacqueline on the CT is inviting a Cemetery preservation workshop to come to Kensington. Elaine contacted Lynne about the slave graves and has deposited her file in the library where it can be available to the public. Lynne will ask Barbara Carpenter to come and show us where the slave graves on the Drinkwater Road property were before they were moved.

14 Moulton Ridge Road: Lynne resent photos and videos to the property owner, Joan. Frank talked to Joan and her son. Joan is willing to have the Commission take the building away, but not willing to leave the building in place. The Heritage Commission understands why she's not willing to keep the building. There was some discussion about the option of salvaging parts of the building or even moving it. The buildings are not sufficiently intact to interest someone in the expense of moving them to a new lot and rehabbing them, so at least we can do some documentation before it is demolished.

Old Home Days: Historical Society will head the Scavenger Hunt with input welcomed from the Heritage Commission and others. Heritage Commission will give walking tours: 30-60 minutes, possibly 2, depending on what time other activities are happening. Meghan is going to Rec Committee meeting on 5/26 and will let them know how we will be involved and report back. Another idea to have Linda Bennett do a walking tour up on Meeting House Hill to visit the Indian grinding stone, but not this Old Home Day, better at another event in the future. Home and garden tours have been popular in the past and the Heritage Commission could host

something like that again in the future. Possibly next year after Covid is less of a concern again.

Town Hall Sign: The sign was present at meeting, and it looks great. Frank and Lynne and Bob will site it and install it on posts.

Corn Crib: Frank talked to the owner and Lynne took some photos. The owner said he would like help to stabilize the roof. Frank and Alan are willing to go put a tarp on it to protect it.

Union Meetinghouse: The assessment is complete and the LCHIP application is in process to be submitted in June. Currently the Trustees are gathering bids for the work on the building to include in the LCHIP application.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Buxton House: The visit was great. Alan, Frank, Lynne, and Steven were able to go and tour the house and had a great time.

Stratham Barn: Joni asked for a recommendation for someone to come look at a friend's barn in Stratham to come give some advice. The owners want to explore what they can do to stabilize the barn, where they can find grant money, etc. Lynne suggests for them to talk to the Stratham Heritage Commission, but as friends, we could also go at look at the barn and make suggestions.

Grange Hall: Frank went to a Selectmen's meeting a while ago and heard that the town is thinking about selling the Grange Hall. The Grange was given to the town and the story of ownership is kind of "fuzzy." Right now, the town creates warrant articles each year for money that goes towards maintaining the Grange, but Bob explained that the building maintenance is not listed regularly in the town budget because it would add to the tax roll so there is no money allocated to the Grange yearly. Discussion ensued about how to use the building as a community space. In the near future we can host an open meeting for residents to discuss ways to utilize the Grange and also the other empty buildings in the town center. Joni suggested that one at a time might be best.

Alan Tuthill made a motion to adjourn at 8:33 pm; Bob Gustafson seconded it. Approved unanimously.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, June 22, 2022, 7:00 at the Town Hall.