

Kensington Heritage Commission Meeting

May 24, 2023

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; Meghan Gross, Secretary; Bob Gustafson, Treasurer and Selectmen's Representative; Planning Board Representative, N/A; Steven Mallory

Alternates: Joni Praded; Alan Tuthill; and Frank Whittemore

Absent: Elaine Kaczmarek

Call to order at 7:13 PM

Minutes: The minutes from the March 22, meeting were reviewed. Meghan Gross made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Bob Gustafson. Approved unanimously.

BUSINESS

The historic buildings in the Town Center were discussed individually as the trustees of each are members of the Heritage Commission.

Grange: Meghan and Frank, Grange Trustees, reported that there has been a lot of interest in the Grange since the community discussion in January and the open house in April. They've already hosted a couple of meetings, have a ukulele group that practices there regularly, and have booked a private event in June. The 2nd grade class will visit on Friday, May 26, to learn the history of the building and take a tour. The class plans to present their research at the Grange on June 8, as a part of the KES-wide history event. They have plans to install Wi-Fi and a code lock system to make it more accessible. Interior roof repairs have been completed and the roof will be re-shingled with an appropriate shingle by a local roofer, and exterior and interior painting will be completed this summer. A suggestion was made to consider hiring a director.

Union Meetinghouse: Lynne and Joni, Union Meetinghouse Trustees, reported that bids for the rehabilitation work are being finalized, as the LCHIP grant monies are now available. Bids need to be approved by LCHIP. Services will be held on Old Home Day Sunday and on another Sunday in the summer (date TBD). An evening musical service is being considered as well. Window Woman is contracted to do window restoration work this summer. Some discussion about the use of a lift for the roof or painting work on the cemetery side, but reassured that this has been considered. The Tower will be removed and worked on the ground and the painters will use ladders.

Library: Elaine and Frank, Social Library Trustees, reported that the Library trustees have sent a survey to townspeople to ask what features they would like to see in the new library addition. Work with the architects is at the study stage and planning consultations have been progressing (surveyors, ground tests). The Heritage Commission will consult with the library trustees on the design possibilities when they have been.

Historical Society: Meghan and Frank, Historical Society board members, reported that the second set of restored windows will soon be reinstalled at the North School. Exterior trim will be painted this summer. Paint color could be creamier than the current “paper white” on the trim. Steven suggested that the best green color that he has seen is called “Rainwet Hemlock, it’s part of the Martha Stewart collection from Sherwin Williams. Roof work and iron rail fabrication for the steps are also planned for this summer. The rail will be done by the same blacksmith that made the ones on the Grange and the Union Meetinghouse and the Town Hall. There will be a school-wide presentation at KES on “How Kensington has Changed Over the Years” on June 8. Two fourth graders came to the May 15 Board of Selectmen’s meeting to announce the celebration and let them know about the presentation. As yet, no UNH interns have applied for the Historical Society internship for the collections cataloging.

National Register Nomination: Lynne reported that the Town Center Historic District nomination for the National Register of Historic Places is ready for submittal. There will be owner consent meetings planned with the NH Division of Historical Resources. Lynne will keep the Heritage Commission apprised as she gets more information about the public approval process.

Cell Tower: As of now, Bob, Selectmen’s Representative, understands that the process of approving the cell tower on Moulton Ridge Road is moving forward.

NEW BUSINESS

Other Business: Meghan mentioned that she attended the ODP conference and learned about reinforcement for engaging with the town. Consideration of giving Preservation Awards in conjunction with Old Home Day? Consider adding resource links to the Town website? Other ideas for promoting preservation ideas in the town? The HC will consider these and other ideas.

Of interest--Bob Gustafson just completed the annual Perambulation of the town boundaries.

Steven Mallory made a motion to adjourn at 8:26 pm; Bob Gustafson seconded it. Approved unanimously.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, June, 2023, 7:00 at the Town Hall.