

**City of Keene
New Hampshire**

HERITAGE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017 4:00 PM Trustee's Room, Library

Members Present:

Rose Carey, Chair
Susan D'Egidio, Vice-Chair
Katherine Snow
Louise Zerba

Staff Present:

Tara Kessler, Planner

Members Not Present:

Councilor Robert O'Connor

1) Call to Order/Roll Call -

Chair Carey called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM with the roll call. Chair Carey welcomed Charlotte Schuerman as a guest.

2) Approval of Minutes – September 13, 2017

Ms. Snow made a motion to adopt the minutes of September 13, 2017 as submitted. Ms. D'Egidio seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

3) Historic Preservation Workshop Series 2017 and 2018

a. Workshop Planning & Logistics

Chair Carey asked Ms. Kessler about the workshop funds. Ms. Kessler reported that she does not have the exact balance but she will provide it at the next meeting. The postage from the first workshop (approximately \$1,000) came from the Commission's budget not the grant. Grant funds were used for the printing of postcards to advertise the event. There are 100-200 postcards left that can be used for advertising.

Discussion ensued regarding the first workshop with Chair Carey reporting that over 90 people attended. Ms. Kessler noted that not many completed the printed evaluation after the workshop. From the evaluation forms that were completed, many people said they heard about the event from the Sentinel or social media.

Chair Carey advised the focus today should be on the next workshop in March at the Courthouse. This will also be the focus of the January meeting. Sally Zimmerman is the speaker for the event; her fee is \$200. The topic is "Fix Your Old House". Ms. Zimmerman will discuss "Old House Dos and Don'ts". The Commission needs to sign-up contractors who will perhaps present mini-workshops. The event will take place Saturday, March 3, 2018, at the Courthouse from noon to 4 PM. Ms. Kessler reported that sixteen people have already registered.

In January Chair Carey would like to focus on advertising and begin to share information with the email addresses obtained from the first workshop. She began a discussion regarding the contractors. The format for the event has Ms. Zimmerman speaking for an hour and then two hours of mini-workshops. Ms. Zerba suggested breaking up Ms. Zimmerman's presentation to have contractors' each cover a topic.

This could perhaps be done in 15-minute segments that repeat, allowing those present to attend more than one.

Contact resource suggestions:

- Home Builder's Association
- Commission's website
- NH Preservation Alliance
- NHDHR- Peter Michaud
- Code Enforcement Department
- Doug Brown – Wyman Tavern project

Suggested topics:

- Historic paint colors – contact Home Depot or local paint stores
- Energy efficiency
- Masonry
- The right tool for the job/purchase and use
- Materials- local/natural
- Bathroom updates/restoration

Chair Carey recommended each member take a piece of this and report back in January. She will email Ms. Zimmerman's topics to Ms. Kessler for Commission members to choose from and then make contact with the appropriate resource.

In response to Ms. Kessler, Chair Carey indicated the space is very conducive to the event. Chair Carey also noted some type of refreshments would be needed. She suggested perhaps the contractors could display work they have done and bring material samples. The plan is to have the contractors' set-up before noon. Attendees could come in and browse and sign-in from noon to 1 PM. The Courthouse does have tables, chairs, and benches that can be used.

b. Historic Building Recognition Program –

Chair Carey reported the program was announced at the first workshop. There are no applicants at this point. Chair Carey will put together a display for the upcoming workshop with the hopes an award can be presented in June.

4) Commission Membership

Ms. Schuerman noted she moved here from Hyde Park, Chicago two years ago to be closer to family. She is interested in serving on the Commission. In Chicago they owned a very old Victorian home. She currently lives in the old Kingsbury house. Ms. Kessler outlined the appointment process and recommended a letter of interest be sent to her or the Mayor.

Ms. Kessler also reported Erin Benik has expressed an interest in the Commission.

5) Adoption of 2018 Meeting Calendar

Ms. Zerba motioned to adopt the 2018 Meeting Calendar. Ms. Snow seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Ms. Kessler also noted Officer Elections should be held at the January meeting.

6) Subcommittee Reports –

a. Demolition Review Committee –

Ms. D'Egidio had nothing to report. At the Commission's request Ms. Kessler will research the Mitchell house (Arch Street) demolition and report back at the next meeting.

b. Community Outreach Committee – Discussed under agenda item 3.a.

c. Research Committee –

Ms. Zerba reported on the Interact group's fundraiser for window replacement at the Courthouse. She commended Chair Carey for her work creating the displays. Ms. Zerba noted the facility is open to the public and they want people to use it. She discussed Chair Carey's creation on canvas, of an original architectural drawing, that is being kept on display there at the Courthouse.

Chair Carey reported she still has not gotten to Concord. She has been photographing Court, School, and Washington Streets for the final workshop on June 2, 2018. She reported talking to some of the people on School Street who seemed very interested. As we will be working in that area for the tour she suggested going door-to-door leaving information for them; perhaps some of them might be interested in opening their doors that day.

7) Staff Updates – None at this time.

Ms. Kessler asked if the Commission was interested in applying for another round of the Certified Local Government grant. She reported the deadline for filing a non-binding Letter of Interest is November 20, 2017.

Ms. Zerba moved for the Commission to authorize Chair Carey and Ms. Kessler to compile a Letter of Intent. Ms. Snow seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Topics for the grant will be discussed at the January meeting.

Ms. Kessler reported she sent a letter to Ken Stewart, of West Street Hydro and is still awaiting a response. There will be a project update at the December 7, 2017 City Council meeting on the West Street Dam. Ms. Kessler will verify the meeting date.

8) New or Other Business – Nothing at this time.

9) Next Meeting- January 10, 2018

10) Adjourn – There being no further Commission business Chair Carey adjourned the meeting at 4: 44 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Mary Lou Sheats-Hall, Minute-taker
November 9, 2017

Reviewed and edited by,
Tara Kessler, Planner