

City of Keene
New Hampshire

HERITAGE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

4:00 PM

2nd Floor Conference Room

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Tara Kessler, Planner

Members Not Present:

1) Call to Order/Roll Call -

Chair Carey called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM with the roll call.

2) Approval of Minutes – February 28, 2018

Ms. Zerba made a motion to adopt the minutes of February 28, 2018 as presented. Ms. D'Egidio seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

3) Architectural Roadshow: Historic Preservation Workshop Series

Chair Carey asked how many attended the March 4, 2018 Old House Restoration Workshop. Ms. Kessler noted that at least 90 signed up through Event Brite and day of registration but that does not include Heritage Commission members or the vendors present. Ms. Kessler noted that she issued a survey to participants asking them to evaluate the event. She has not compiled the results yet. Chair Carey noted that she has heard good feedback from the vendors/presenters. It was noted that the muralist who presented did get in touch with Ms. Snow's neighbor regarding the Rufus Porter mural in their home.

In response to a question about how these workshops are being funded, Ms. Kessler gave an overview of the Certified Local Government (CLG) program. Ms. D'Egidio asked what funded the Stone Arch Bridge project. Ms. Kessler responded that this project used grant monies from LCHIP and the NH Conservation License Plate Grant Program. Ms. Schuerman asked what Ms. Kessler's role is. Ms. Kessler explained that she is the CLG liaison and helps write the grants and monitors them for the Commission.

Chair Carey asked the group to discuss planning for Workshop 3. She noted that Jeanne Farrar offered her home on School Street as a stop on the walking tour. Ms. Zerba noted that Ardis Osborn volunteered to research one house. Chair Carey noted that two individuals at the Old House Restoration workshop signed up to offer their house for tours.

Chair Carey noted that Jim Rousmaniere, who will be presenting at the June 2nd workshop at the Keene Public Library, hoped to meet with the Commission or her mid-March to discuss how to move forward and what we have to include in a presentation. Chair Carey noted that they have some history on homes in the School Street neighborhood. Hopefully the Putnams will be willing to have properties on the tour and share information on their properties. She will photograph whatever hasn't been photographed to have a presentation on the history of Keene's architecture. She would like to present on how the neighborhood of the School Street area has evolved over time. This presentation may also highlight historic individuals that lived in this area. Ms. Schuerman asked if it would be possible to have a document produced that outlines the history of homes in this area as she will be unable to attend the June workshop. Chair Carey if the grant could be used to produce this type of document. Ms. Kessler stated that if there is available funding there is a possibility it might be an allowed expense.

Chair Carey noted that Cheshire TV will film the next workshop. Ms. Zerba suggested asking if Terri Clark would film the walking tour. Chair Carey asked for input from the Commission on the next event. It was suggested that the Commission reach out to Alan Rumrill and Bill Dow for assistance or collaboration. Ms. Snow noted that this might turn into something that we can do in another area of Keene. Ms. D'Egidio asked if a bus would be rented, and if so, could a larger territory for the walking tour be covered. Chair Carey noted that she intends to rent a bus. Ms. Zerba asked if people would get off the bus or stay on for the tour. Chair Carey responded that they would get off the bus. Ms. Snow asked if people would need to sign up for the walking tour in advance of if people could do it on their own as a self-guided tour. Chair Carey responded that the walking tour would require advanced registration as it will be guided and space will be limited. The group asked about whether there would be tours of the insides of homes. Chair Carey noted that this will need to be thought through in more detail later.

Ms. Schuerman noted that every year there is a Frank Loydd Wright tour in Oak Park Chicago as a fundraiser. They have people stationed inside the houses and on the outside. People are lined up and they let in a certain number of people at a time and have docents moving them through each interior. She noted that people love to see the inside of these houses. She had her own home on a tour of the Hyde Park area of Chicago. Chair Carey noted that she would like to see an interior tour of 91 Court Street, if the owners are willing. Her idea is to shuttle one group via bus to another area of Washington Street and to have most of the School Street walking tour be on foot. She noted that closer to the date, they will ask people to register for the tour and identify if they plan to use the shuttle. Chair Carey stated that she envisions the walking tour totaling no more than 2 hours.

Ms. Snow noted that she thinks coordinating people in and out of houses will be logistically challenging. Ms. Carey noted that it depends on how many people sign up. Ms. D'Egidio asked when it will be known how many people are registered. Ms. Kessler responded that a cut-off date for registration is possible and that currently there are a number of people registered. Ms. Snow asked if there will be guides for the walking tour. Chair Carey answered that there would be docents, unless the property owner intends to give a tour or talk about the history. It was noted that the Historical Society of Cheshire County should be contacted to let them know about the event and see if they might have information on the homes and potential volunteers.

Ms. Schuerman noted that with her experience of indoor walking tours, they are typically limited to the first floor, which makes it easier for people with mobility issues. She noted that realtors often have open houses and doesn't think safety is an issue. She suggested that the interior and exterior tours might take place as separate tours. Ms. Snow agreed with this suggestion. Chair Carey noted that she envisioned it being one tour.

Ms. D'Egidio noted it would be good for the Commission to meet once a month up to the event and others agreed. Ms. Zerba noted that she would contact Barbara Trembly about the Jonathon Daniels house. Ms. D'Egidio will contact Terri Clark about filming the walking tour. Ms. Kessler will contact Mr. Ken Stewart about the properties on Court Street owned by the Putnam family.

4) Subcommittee Reports –

a. Demolition Review Committee – Ms. Kessler noted that the Demolition Review Committee did sign off on the Demolition Permit for the barn at 185 Winchester Street.

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

c. Research Committee – Discussed under agenda item #3.

6) NH Preservation Alliance Membership -

Ms. Kessler explained that the NH Preservation Alliance is requesting the Commission consider another year of membership. She noted that a copy of this letter from the Preservation Alliance is included in the meeting packet.

Kathy Snow made a motion for the Heritage Commission to submit \$50 to the NH Preservation Alliance for its annual membership. Louise Zerba seconded this motion, which carried unanimously.

5) Staff Updates – Ms. Kessler noted that Keene will be the location of a Walldogs Festival in 2019. This is a festival that draws professional muralists from across the world to paint permanent murals, typically related to a place's history/heritage, over the course of a few days. She noted that Peter Poanessa will be presenting on the festival at the Historic District Commission meeting in March. She will see if Mr. Poanessa is willing to attend a Heritage Commission meeting.

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

7) Next Meeting- April 11, 2018

8) Adjourn – Chair Carey adjourned the meeting at 4: 30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Tara Kessler, Planner