



City of Keene
New Hampshire

HERITAGE COMMISSION MEETING

MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

4:00 PM

2nd Floor Conference Room, City Hall

1. Call to Order / Roll Call
2. Minutes of November 14, 2018
3. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
4. Adoption of 2019 Meeting Calendar
5. Certified Local Government Grant Program Application for FY 2020
6. 2018/2019 Workshop Series Planning Discussion
7. Commission Membership
8. New or Other Business
9. Next Meeting – March 13, 2019
10. Adjourn

**CITY OF KEENE
HERITAGE COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA**

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

4:00 PM

2nd Floor Conference Room, City Hall

Members present:

Rosemary Carey, Chair
Susan D'Egidio, Vice Chair
Charlotte Schuerman, Member
Catherine Snow, Member
Louise Zerba, Member
Erin Benik, Member

Staff present:

Tara Kessler, Planner

Members not present:

1. **Call to Order / Roll Call**

Chair Carey called meeting to order at 4:08 pm and roll call was conducted.

2. **Minutes of September 12, 2018**

Ms. Snow moved to accept the minutes, Ms. Zerba seconded and motion was passed unanimously.

3. **Certified Local Government Grant Program Letter of Intent for FY 2020**

Ms. Kessler stated that the FY 2020 Certified Local Government (CLG) grant round is open and the Division of Historical Resources is seeking Letters of Intent for this funding. These letters are due by November 26, 2018. She said the Commission should determine if it intends to apply for funding and if so, the Commission should discuss what projects for which they intend to seek funding. Typically, the Division of Historical Resources reviews these Letters of Intent and informs the community whether they would have a competitive application and provides guidance on whether the proposal meets the eligibility criteria for CLG funding.

Chair Carey said she would like to put together an inventory of at risk homes and barns. She said the Commission's third workshop this year will be focused on barns, which will begin an inventory of barn resources in the community. There is an opportunity to leverage this work by applying for CLG funding to expand the inventory of historic barns and agricultural structures in Keene and to identify which are at-risk and how are they being used. Ms. Kessler stated that the Division encourages grantees to apply for funding for the hiring of consultants to conduct this type of historic resource inventorying.

Ms. Snow asked if they could extend the boundary of the Barn inventory to within a mile of the Keene town line. Ms. Kessler said they can propose this idea in the Letter of Intent.

Chair Carey stated that another idea for a project would be to inventory the neighborhood between Court and Washington Streets and to identify structures that are at-risk in this area of Keene. The southern boundary of this neighborhood would be around Mechanic Street and the northern boundary would be the area of Washington Ave. The intent of this type of inventory would be to have a better understanding of the degree to which historic resources in this area might be vulnerable to demolition.

It could also be a tool to target any programs that could be established to help support historic building owners in their efforts to rehabilitate their buildings. Ms. Schuerman agreed with this project concept and said many of those houses are multifamily homes and landlords are not taking care of them.

Ms. Snow suggested inventorying the houses located in the full triangle area from Central Square to Washington Avenue. Ms. Kessler said many of the historic properties in this area along Court and Washington Streets have transitioning from single family to mixed use buildings with residential and office uses in them. In the 1990s, the City created the Office District to allow for adaptive reuse of these larger historic residential structures. Ms. Kessler encouraged the committee to be sensitive to the fact that there has not been a strong show of support for the creation of another historic district in the community.

Chair Carey shared that she recently spoke with the Foundation for The Preservation of Historic Keene, an independent group that meets once a year to discuss how to preserve Keene's historic past. Chair Carey said they invited her to discuss the Heritage Commission's current activities and future plans. At this meeting, she proposed the idea of establishing a source of private funding to support property owners who are attempting to restore their houses or barns, as often it is the difference between making an economical choice or a historical choice for property owners. Chair Carey said she envisions a private fund that property owners can access to help them through the restoration phase. Ms. Snow said they would also have to figure out who would own the fund and how awards would be managed as well. Chair Carey replied the fund would have to be separate from the City of Keene..

Ms. Kessler suggested that they pick inventories of either homes or barns. She said in the past they asked to do a city-wide inventory of houses over 100 years old and the proposal was deemed ineligible because it was not confined to a specific area or focused on a type of structure. Ms. Kessler said taking on both houses and barns would be two different tracks of research and they should choose one to have a better chance of proposal acceptance and also to be cognizant of the Commission's ability to manage two separate projects at one time. Chair Carey replied that she would like to go ahead and proposed funding for both anyway.

Ms. Zerba moved to direct City staff to write a letter of intent to the Division of Historical Resources for CLG funding to support an inventory of historic barns and agricultural buildings as well as funding for a historic resource inventory for properties in the Court Street and Washington Street neighborhood, Ms. Snow seconded and motion was passed unanimously.

4. **Commission Membership**

Ms. Kessler stated that there are three members whose membership terms are up at the end of the year. She said it is up to members to decide whether or not they would like to stay on while the City finds new members to replace them. Ms. Kessler said in the past members would stay past their terms if other members could not be found. She said she will tell the Mayor and City Clerk that Commission is actively looking for new members. Ms. Benik said she has a friend who is interested in history who she can ask about potential membership.

5. **2018/2019 Workshop Series Planning Discussion**

Chair Carey stated that she would still like to do the Barn Tour in late spring, but in order to implement the workshop they must first find the barns. She said they will be doing a workshop at Stonewall Farms on historic foods sometime around the time of their sap gathering event. The Commission will discuss planning for the third workshop at the next meeting.

Chair Carey asked members for other ideas. Ms. Benik suggested the idea that since they are approaching 2020, they could celebrate the houses that are turning 100, which were built around 1920. The group discussed the idea of sending birthday cards to these property owners.

6. **Staff Updates**

N/A

7. **New or Other Business**

N/A

8. **Next Meeting – January 9, 2019**

9. **Adjourn**

Ms. Carey adjourned the meeting at 4:33 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Ayshah Kassamali-Fox, Minute-Taker

Reviewed and edited by,

Tara Kessler, Senior Planner



HERITAGE COMMISSION

Proposed 2019 Meeting Dates

Meetings are every other month

All meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday at 4:00PM
in the 2nd Floor Conference Room

Wednesday, January 9

Wednesday, March 13

Wednesday, May 8

Wednesday, July 10

Wednesday, September 11

Wednesday, November 13