

City of Keene
New Hampshire

HERITAGE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 10, 2019

4:00 PM

2nd Floor Conference Room

Members Present:

Rose Carey, Chair
Susan D'Egidio, Vice-Chair
Cauley Powell
Erin Benik
Charlotte Schuerman

Staff Present:

Tara Kessler, Senior Planner

Members Not Present:

Louise Zerba, Alternate
Christine Houston

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

1) Approval of Meeting Minutes – June 12, 2019

Ms. D'Egidio made a motion to approve the minutes of June 12, 2019. Ms. Schuerman seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

2) CLG Grant FY 2019 Workshop Planning Discussion
a) August Barn Tour

Chair Carey stated that they have four properties that have been photographed and inventoried by Richard Kipphut, the presenter for the event. He will be back this Saturday and wants to take photographs of 124 Washington St, and would be available if they want him to take photos of Mr. Gorman's property at 112 Washington St.

Chair Carey asked if anyone already has narratives of the properties they are researching. Ms. Schuerman replied that there was a lot of information about the properties she is researching, 100 and 196 Washington Street. She continued that she was lucky to find that this work had been previously done, and she used the information she got from the map of 1873, along with the other information she had, to write a paragraph on each property. Chair Carey asked if she wanted to give her the folder. Ms. Schuerman replied yes. She continued that she tried to pull the information together in a brief and cohesive way.

Chair Carey stated that Ms. Zerba has 76, 124, and 163 Washington Street, and Ms. Houston has 127 and 82. She continued that Ms. D'Egidio has 112, which is Mr. Gorman's property.

Ms. D'Egidio stated that she has been to several places and cannot figure out who built Mr. Gorman's house. She continued that they think two nearby houses with a similar design were built by the same person, so she will try and determine who built those two. She showed the group an old photograph found behind the mantle in a bedroom when Mr. Gorman was doing work. She stated that they think the photograph is of Clara Sturtevant, whom she thinks died in the house, which was then turned over to her son. She continued that Mr. Gorman will place the photograph back in the wall when he is done with the work.

Ms. D'Egidio stated that Chair Carey gave her information on 85 Washington Street, the stone house that was built in 1833 when granite was brought in from Marlborough. Ms. Benik replied that is on the corner of Taylor Street. Ms. D'Egidio asked if they want that in the tour. Chair Carey replied yes. Ms. D'Egidio stated that there is a great write-up about it. She asked if Chair Carey wants it ready for Mr. Kipphut, which Chair Carey confirmed. Ms. D'Egidio replied that when she and Ms. Schuerman were at the Historical Society, they saw printouts that talk about the unique architecture of New England barns. She continued that she will get that information to Chair Carey – it would be interesting for Mr. Kipphut to read at the church.

Ms. Schuerman stated that the book is "Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn." She continued that she talked with Anita Carroll-Weldon at the Horatio Colony House. One of the programs they once sponsored at the Court House was about barns. The author of the book came and talked. The book is in the Historical Society's library and is interesting.

Ms. D'Egidio stated that there has been no more demolition, since that one house on Court Street. She continued that she welcomes suggestions for where to go next [to figure out who built Mr. Gorman's house]. Ms. Benik asked how far back she got, and Ms. D'Egidio replied the 1927 Registry of Deeds, when Clara gave the house to her son Clifford. She continued that from the NH Division of Historical Resources in Concord, she got back to 1893, John's will to Clara, but there is no address on any of those documents.

Chair Carey stated that Mr. Kipphut might be able to help date the house on Saturday. Ms. D'Egidio replied that they think it is late 1800s, just based on architecture. She continued that Mr. Gorman is excited that the Commission is doing this, and she will tell them they might come by on Saturday, to see if Mr. Kipphut can help. Chair Carey replied that she should wait to tell Mr. Gorman. She and Ms. Kessler have been wondering if the barn should be inventoried. She asked if that is a question. Ms. Kessler replied no, she has been working with Mr. Gorman about something different – he is filling out an inventory form to see if his property is eligible to be on the State register. Part of the form is about the history of the property. Chair replied that is the RSA 79-E. Ms. Kessler replied yes, he is pursuing the community revitalization tax relief incentive.

Ms. Benik stated that they could see who owns the area if they look at maps even further back. Ms. D'Egidio replied that she tried and could not see maps before 1873. Brief discussion

ensued, and Ms. Kessler stated that City Hall has the old maps on file and she will try and get them for the Commission to look at.

Ms. Powell stated that she was not assigned any properties. Brief discussion ensued, and per Chair Carey's suggestion, Ms. Powell agreed to write something about 181 Washington Street. Chair Carey stated that she herself will be writing about the history of the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Church building. Ms. Benik stated that she, too, does not have an assignment. Chair Carey asked if she would write a summary of the UU church building's architecture, if she gives Ms. Benik a book with information. Ms. Benik agreed.

Ms. Powell asked if there is a guideline for the voice of the writing. Chair Carey replied that it should be a narrative, but no, there is no guide. Ms. Kessler spoke about a barn inventory form, which would probably be more useful for the group than the form she previously gave them. Chair Carey replied that they already have that form from Mr. Kipphut, and she apologizes for not connecting with Ms. Kessler about that.

Chair Carey stated that regarding advertisements for the barn tour, they should have a poster in a couple weeks. Ms. Kessler has a list of things she was doing to advertise the event. Ms. Kessler replied yes, once she has a poster and a blurb, she can put it out to all the channels. Chair Carey replied that she will get a blurb to her. Ms. Kessler stated that she will send the poster to Commission members so they can send it to their contacts.

Ms. D'Egidio asked if the posters will be brought to all the usual places. Chair Carey replied yes, and she would be happy to have help with the posters. She asked if the posters can be printed at City Hall. Ms. Kessler replied yes.

Ms. Benik stated that the Historic District Commission did not meet last month.

Chair Carey stated that the Resource Ranking Subcommittee is in the process of deciding when to meet.

Ms. D'Egidio stated that there have not been any demolitions.

3) Updates

a) CLG Grant FY 2020

Ms. Kessler reported that tomorrow night she will be asking the Finance, Organization, and Personnel (FOP) Committee to recommend that the City Council accept the grant that the Heritage Commission awarded by the CLG program for the Barn Survey. She continued that the City Council will vote on it next Thursday, but then an agreement has to be finalized with the Division of Historical Resources.

She is drafting a scope of work to start the RFP process for a consultant. The City of Concord sent her information about what they did, when they did an urban barn and carriage house inventory, which she will use as a model. Chair Carey asked how long they have to complete the grant. Ms. Kessler replied until next September. She continued that their proposed time frame was spring of next year, giving them the fall to bring on a consultant.

Ms. Schuerman asked if the consultant will gather the information. Ms. Kessler replied that she is still working on the scope of work, and will consult with Chair Carey on that.

b) Demolition Review Subcommittee

4) New or Other Business

5) Next Meeting – August 14, 2019

Ms. D'Egidio asked why the agenda says the next meeting is in August, when the next scheduled meeting was September. Discussion ensued about the meeting schedule. Ms. Kessler stated that the next scheduled meeting is September 11, but the group could choose to meet in August. Discussion continued, about people's availability. Chair Carey noted that it does not seem possible to have a quorum in August. She continued that they will not meet in August, and she will try and reach out to everyone to make sure everything is complete for the barn tour. The next meeting will be September 11.

6) Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Britta Reida, Minute Taker

Reviewed and edited by Tara Kessler, Senior Planner