

**City of Keene**  
**New Hampshire**

**HERITAGE COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, November 10, 2021**

**4:30 PM**

**Council Chambers,  
City Hall**

**Members Present:**

Cauley Powell, Chair  
Susan DeGidio, Vice Chair  
Councilor Gladys Johnsen  
Rose Carey  
Louise Zerba, Alternate  
Marilyn Huston  
Brian Lee

**Staff Present:**

Tara Kessler, Senior Planner  
Will Schoefmann, GIS Technician

**Members Not Present:**

*All Present*

**1) Call to Order – Roll Call**

Chair Powell called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM.

Ms. DeGidio joined remotely stating she was at home alone and joining remotely due to COVID precautions.

**2) Minutes of Previous Meeting – September 8, 2021**

Ms. Carey moved to accept the minutes of September 8, 2021 as presented. Councilor Johnsen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**3) Discussion on Neighborhood Heritage Project/ Website**

Ms. Kessler reported that the grant hadn't been approved by the Governor and council yet; however, once approved the commission will have funding and can move forward with hiring their consultant. She noted that Mr. Schoefmann will be taking over management of the grant and is well suited, mentioning that he has experience building online maps. Ms. Kessler added that the consultant understands they are in a holding pattern and will be ready to go when they are.

Mr. Schoefmann stated Mari Brunner will be helping with the grant process and noted that they have an upcoming meeting with finance to go over grant reporting. Ms. Kessler suggested that they may need to ask for an extension on the grant due to timing.

Ms. Huston stated she visited the Historical Society and they didn't have any information with regards to the Italian neighborhood; however, she found several articles about the Italian immigrants coming to Keene and she also talked with two wonderful members of the Italian community. They noted that what made the community special was that the mills were easy to get to and the majority of the community belonged to the same church, and the majority of the children went to the same school.

Chair Powell added that she is intrigued by the institutions that served the community and wondered if they could approach them and get documents/records. She noted that personal connections will likely be the way to go.

Councilor Johnsen stated she will talk with her daughter, who has connections at the Italian Center, and also took a moment to thank Ms. Kessler for her work, noting that she will be missed.

Chair Powell suggested they continue to think about individuals with ties to the Italian neighborhood that they can speak with over the next few months, and eventually plan scenarios where they go door to door and collect material. She summarized that the plan is to collect personal family artifacts and anecdotes for the contractor to use.

Ms. Huston stated she would also like to find out more information on the Red Sox exhibition games they used to hold in Keene and see if anyone had detailed stories.

Ms. Kessler reminded the commission to document their volunteer time while working on the project so it can be used as in-kind match for the grant.

Ms. Huston added that the Daughters of the American Revolution give out grants and wondered if they should look into that for an opportunity.

Chair Powell asked the commission if they had any ideas given that grant LOIs (letter of intents) are usually due in November. Short discussion ensued about the BPPAC (Bicycle Pedestrian Path Advisory Committee), with the commission agreeing that they'd be happy to collaborate with the BPPAC if an opportunity comes about.

Ms. Carey stated she is very interested in the old mills in Keene and wondered if they could do research on the industry and the mills, and if that could possibly be a topic for a CLG grant. The general consensus was that the mills would be a good idea with the project being something similar to what they did with the barns project.

Chair Powell wondered about Black Heritage Trails in their area and suggested that could be an idea as well, not for a grant but to offer their services/partnership. She also mentioned a Native American site newly discovered in the area as an idea.

Ms. DeGidio stated she knew of a contact with the Black Heritage Trail organization and would try and get in touch.

Chair Powell summarized that they would plan to submit LOIs for a project on the mills and in the background would work on Black Heritage Trail, Native American site and Italian neighborhood. Ms. Carey reminded them that they can submit letters of intent with various topics.

**4) Next Meeting – January 12, 2022**

Chair Powell stated the next meeting will be held on January 12, 2022 and they will need to vote on chair and vice chair then. She added that she's happy to continue the role as chair.

**5) Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Powell adjourned the meeting at 4:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Nicole Cullinane, Minute Taker

Reviewed and edited by,  
Will Schoefmann, Community Development Staff