



Heritage Commission

Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 4:30 PM

2nd Floor Conference Room, City Hall
3 Washington St, Keene, NH 03431

AGENDA

- I. **Call to Order – Roll Call**
- II. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2026**
- III. **T-Mobile Hometown Grant Opportunity – Brainstorming Ideas**
- IV. **Keene Glass Plaque Donation Request**
- V. **Downtown Video Project Updates**
- VI. **US Sesqui-Centennial 2026 Planning & Preparation Updates**
- VII. **Staff Updates**
 - a. [Google Drive](#)
 - b. [Jane's Walk](#)
- VIII. **New Business**
- IX. **Next Meeting – March 11, 2026**
- X. **Adjourn**

City of Keene
New Hampshire

HERITAGE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

4:30 PM

2nd Floor Conference Room,
City Hall

Members Present:

Julie Emineth
Acacia Johnston, Vice Chair
Rose Carey
Marilyn Huston
Councilor Molly Ellis
Louise Zerba
Cauley Powell, Chair
Kathy Halverson, Alternate
Jill Bouchillon, Alternate
Connie Joyce, Alternate

Staff Present:

Megan Fortson, Planner

1) Call to Order – Roll Call

Ms. Ellis called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM. Roll call was conducted. The HC welcomed guests, Alina Nightingale, Stephen Seraichick, and Anthony Ferrantello.

2) Election of Chair & Vice Chair

Ms. Zerba nominated Councilor Ellis as chair.

Councilor Ellis nominated Ms. Johnston as chair. Ms. Huston seconded the nomination.

Ms. Carey nominated Ms. Bouchillon as chair. Ms. Bouchillon replied that she was an alternate member. Ms. Fortson stated that only regular members can be nominated for chair or vice chair.

Ms. Zerba nominated Ms. Powell as chair. Ms. Powell replied that she could be vice chair and assist Ms. Johnston. Ms. Johnston replied that she would rather be vice chair than chair. She seconded the nomination for Ms. Powell as chair, which passed by unanimous vote.

Discussion ensued about Ms. Johnston as vice chair, and the HC determined that Councilor Ellis' motion to nominate her as chair, which Ms. Huston had seconded, could serve as a motion for her to be vice chair. The nomination of Ms. Johnston as vice chair passed by unanimous vote.

3) Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2025

33 Ms. Zerba made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of November 12, 2025. Ms. Carey
34 seconded the motion.

35
36 Chair Powell noted two corrections:

37
38 Line 57 – the narrative that she read was one that Ms. Carey had written, with research done by
39 Ms. Emineth.

40
41 Line 224 – Councilor Ellis was the one who had run into Ms. Huston, not Ms. Fortson.

42
43 The motion to approve the meeting minutes, as amended, passed by unanimous vote.

44
45 **4) Adoption of 2026 Meeting Schedule**

46
47 Ms. Zerba made a motion to adopt the 2026 meeting schedule. Ms. Carey seconded the motion,
48 which passed by unanimous vote.

49
50 Ms. Emineth spoke about how the HC used to not meet every month, and asked if they would skip
51 some meetings, maybe in the summer. Ms. Fortson replied that it is up to the group, and typically,
52 the HC has met every other month, but their momentum increased and they started meeting
53 monthly. Chair Powell added that they maintained the monthly schedule because Mr. Clements
54 had said it would be easier to skip scheduled meetings, if the HC chooses to, than to schedule
55 additional ones.

56
57 **5) Keene Glass Plaque – Update from Stephen Seraichick**

58
59 Chair Powell asked to hear from Stephen Seraichick.

60
61 Mr. Seraichick stated that he did not know if everyone knew where they are at regarding the
62 installation of a historical marker between Water St. and Eastern Ave., on the bike path. He
63 continued that he is a member of the Yankee Bottle Club. Their mission is to appreciate, preserve,
64 and promote the history of glassmaking and glass collecting in New Hampshire. He brought a
65 couple of bottles in tonight to show the HC. Mr. Seraichick gave information about the bottles.
66 He continued that none of the three historical markers between Eastern Ave. and Water St. mention
67 Keene Glass, which shocks him.

68
69 He thinks something should be done about that. Alan Rumrill, former Executive Director of the
70 Historical Society, agrees. He has been talking with many local organizations about this. He put
71 together a rendition of what the marker will look like, and Mr. Rumrill came up with the wording
72 for it. Councilor Haas asked him to come up with a proposal, which he did, and he can share that
73 with the HC for their files. He met with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Path Advisory Committee
74 (BPPAC) this morning, and they wanted to know the bottom line. The bottom line is \$3,700 – that
75 is the cost estimate from Peter Poanessa, owner of Keene Sign Worx.

76
77 Mr. Seraichick stated that he and the club believe it is the City's responsibility to fund this, but he
78 thinks the club would be able to do some fundraising as well. He asked the State, and they said

79 no, the State would not do this. He then went to the Historic District Commission (HDC), which
80 recommended him to the HC, and he went to the BPPAC when someone suggested he talk with
81 them, too.

82
83 Chair Powell stated that she assumes Mr. Seraichick is interested in whether the HC is open to
84 partnering on some funding assistance. She asked if that is the direction he is going in. Mr.
85 Seraichick replied that if the HC wants to contribute some money, that would be great. He
86 continued that he has the goal, but not all the pieces to get to the goal. He could fund it himself.
87 But the way the Yankee Bottle Club looks at it is, this is the City of Keene's history, history that
88 belongs to everyone, not just him. He guesses that the other historical markers were funded by the
89 City, but he does not know.

90
91 HC members asked Mr. Seraichick what he is looking for from the HC. Mr. Seraichick replied
92 that he is looking for their support. He continued that support for the funding, or support for the
93 City to fund it, which are two different things, and he will leave that up to the HC. HC members
94 asked, for clarity, if he is asking the HC to go to the City and ask the City to fund something they
95 have told Mr. Seraichick the City does not have in its budget to fund. Mr. Seraichick replied that
96 he does not know, because he has not talked to the City Council yet, but he is trying to get to that
97 point.

98
99 He continued that he wanted to have everything in place first, such as what the sign will look like,
100 what it will say, and a proposal. HC members suggested exploring a potential partnership, with
101 some financial buy-in, with the other entities that might be interested. Mr. Seraichick explained
102 the Yankee Bottle Club's financial situation. Discussion continued. Chair Powell stated that Mr.
103 Seraichick and his colleagues have done an incredible amount of work on this, and it is clear from
104 the conversations the HC has had that this project is worth pursuing. She continued that the HC
105 will have to discuss the possibility of contributing funds, and ideally, they might have buy-in from
106 other relevant organizations. The HC will discuss it and get back in touch with Mr. Seraichick.

107
108 Mr. Seraichick shared more information about the bottles he brought and Keene Glass. Ms.
109 Fortson stated that her recommendation is for Mr. Seraichick to get a quote from Mr. Poanessa as
110 to what he expects the entire cost of the sign would be, and send that information to her to share
111 with the HC. She continued that that would be helpful for the HC as they approach voting on the
112 decision to donate to this project. Alexis Green, attending this meeting remotely to discuss another
113 agenda item, said in the chat box that an organization called the Pomeroy Foundation has a grant
114 program, and they have funded markers before. She (Ms. Fortson) will send Mr. Seraichick that
115 information.

116
117 **6) Keene State College Architecture Students Highlighting Historic Properties in Keene**
118 **- Overview & Update from the Historic District Commission**

119
120 Chair Powell asked to hear from Anthony Ferrantello of the HDC.

121
122 Mr. Ferrantello stated that the HDC and the HC share the goal of making the historic fabric that
123 we have in our backyard known to the greater community in Keene. He continued that the HDC
124 has had many discussions about how to do this. An idea they came up with was to do an

125 interdisciplinary study that combines art, music, architecture, and narrative, on film. He learned
126 that the HC has been working on a video project as well, so it is interesting that the two groups are
127 doing similar work. The HDC's idea was to involve the KSC Architecture students. The chair of
128 the Architecture Department ran with it and created a four-credit course for junior students to
129 inventory several Court St. buildings. The students did that, and checked with the Cheshire County
130 Historical Society's tax maps, and spoke with the buildings' owners and visited the buildings
131 themselves. Through this, the students found discrepancies between the resources and the
132 residence realities. That is the real-world fascination that happens when you are doing historic
133 preservation. It is not necessarily so that what is in the record is the same as real life. He was
134 impressed by how the students took interest and ran with it. They presented their work in
135 December, to the homeowners, their professors, and the HDC. He was impressed by the caliber
136 of the work.

137
138 Mr. Ferrantello continued that the senior class will continue and imbue more information onto
139 what the juniors did, to create a comprehensive product. By this fall, he will identify more historic
140 buildings for the students to inventory. The City will have an opportunity to have an audio/visual
141 mechanism by which to communicate to the people about Keene's historic fabric. It will also be
142 on social media. He envisions wonderful narration and background music, too.

143
144 Mr. Ferrantello stated that the HDC can discuss whether it wants to establish historic corridors that
145 have contributing features to historic buildings, because there is a definite border inside the
146 Historic District. He continued that then, just like spot zoning, they might consider spot annotation
147 of various buildings that have significant features to celebrate even though they are outside of the
148 Historic District.

149
150 Mr. Ferrantello expressed appreciation for this partnership between the City and KSC, for the
151 students' work, and for the homeowners who opened their doors to them. He was very happy with
152 the outcome and the collaboration between everyone.

153
154 Ms. Zerba asked what the parameters/boundary lines are for the buildings being evaluated. Mr.
155 Ferrantello replied that right now there are not any. He continued that the question is which
156 buildings are not within the Historic District but have some character-defining architectural
157 features, and whether they could be incorporated, and contribute to the historic fabric that we have.
158 They will need parameters eventually, but right now they are "reaching for the sky." He likes that
159 the HDC and the HC have the same goal of exposing what Keene has to those who do not know
160 about it. He thinks they should compare notes in working with KSC as well.

161
162 Chair Powell replied that she agrees. She asked if there is a long-term plan for the architecture
163 students to continue this work. Mr. Ferrantello replied yes, it will be a continuous course, and the
164 chair of the Architecture Department said he wants to develop it more comprehensively. He
165 personally likes that the students can see the differences between what is in the record and what is
166 in real life, and can see where these expressions originate from. He continued that there could be
167 research projects for PhD students as well.

168
169 Ms. Carey stated that she understands that the buildings so far are homes. She asked if Mr.
170 Ferrantello has any interest in doing any of the buildings around Central Square. Mr. Ferrantello

171 replied yes, he identified the Cheshire County Court House, and Eli Rivera, County Sheriff, gave
172 the group permission to go ahead with it. He has information for the students about it whenever
173 the students are ready to do that assessment. Ms. Carey replied that the HC is filming Central
174 Square and they are particularly interested in the church at the head of the Square. Discussion
175 ensued.

176
177 Chair Powell stated that it sounds like the HDC and HC have some common interests. Mr.
178 Ferrantello replied yes, and he discovered that at one time, the HDC and HC were one group and
179 then split. They should compare notes and share resources. Chair Powell replied that it sounds
180 like they are due for their annual joint meeting, and they can discuss some collaborative projects
181 in the future. She continued that it might make sense for the HC to get in on this KSC coursework,
182 as preservation is at the heart of the work happening in both committees. Chair Powell and the
183 HC thanked Mr. Ferrantello for coming today.

184

185 **7) Section 106 Review – Elliot Center at 305 Main St.**

186

187 Chair Powell thanked Ms. Alexis Green from EBI Consulting for attending the meeting remotely.
188 Ms. Fortson stated that the proposed plans are in the agenda packet, and they show modifications
189 proposed to some existing telecommunications equipment at the Elliot Center on KSC property.
190 Because the property is located outside of the Historic District, the HC gets looped in as part of
191 the New Hampshire Division of Historic Resources' Section 106 review process. The goal of this
192 discussion is to provide Ms. Green with feedback on what is proposed. For example, whether the
193 HC wants to see equipment lines painted a certain color to blend with the building, or for rooftop
194 equipment to be painted blue or grey to blend with the sky better, or something like that. She
195 asked if Ms. Green wanted to share anything about the project.

196

197 Ms. Green stated that the project is nothing fancy; they are replacing existing equipment with new
198 equipment. She continued that it will be in the same location. The average person is unlikely to
199 notice any change at all. She is the consultant, specializing in Section 106, here to get the HC's
200 opinion. She did not do the design. She will take the HC's comments back to her client, and/or
201 answer questions from the HC.

202

203 Ms. Zerba stated that she was unable to read all of the materials they received, due to poor printing.
204 She asked Ms. Green to show a picture of what it looks like currently, and what it will look like
205 when the modifications are there. Ms. Fortson stated that she can show the plan set on the screen.
206 Ms. Zerba stated that she would like to see what it will look like from Main St. Ms. Green replied
207 that she can show a photo of what is currently there. She continued that for Section 106, they
208 typically are only concerned with properties that are listed on the National Register or National
209 Landmark lists and are considered eligible by the State Historic Preservation Office.

210

211 They typically do not include locally designated historic districts. However, she thinks these are
212 the same district boundaries as Keene's local districts. They take photos all the way around the
213 building and then within the district in various locations. The photos on the screen show the
214 building facing north and facing northeast. You cannot really see the equipment when you are
215 really close. They are set pretty far back. She indicated a photo in which you can see the tip of

216 one of the pieces of equipment on the building's roof. She showed photos of the same thing from
217 different angles. She continued that the existing frame will continue to be utilized.

218
219 Chair Powell stated that in the past, for projects similar to this one, the HC has requested masking
220 or painting of the proposed equipment. She asked if anyone has any opinions on that front. HC
221 members replied that they cannot see that there would be much change, and they do not see a need
222 for painting or masking. Ms. Green replied that the pieces of equipment come the color they are
223 now, that very light grey that is almost white. She continued that typically, carriers will paint the
224 equipment if that is requested of them. She thinks of the color they come with as "cloudy day
225 color," and here in the northeast, cloudy days are common. Typically, when a commission
226 recommends painting equipment brick or blue, she does not recommend that. She typically
227 recommends this white or grey color to match New England's weather. She has been doing this
228 work for 17 years, and she expects that when this equipment is replaced, they will not even notice
229 a change. HC members agreed.

230
231 Chair Powell stated that it sounds like the HC members are unanimous that they are comfortable
232 with the project the way it is. Others agreed. Ms. Fortson stated that she will send Ms. Green an
233 email saying that the HC had no real feedback. Ms. Green thanked the HC.

234

235 **8) NH Preservation Alliance Membership Renewal & Donation Request**

236
237 Ms. Fortson stated that the HC has two options for being members of the NH Preservation Alliance.
238 She continued that a basic municipal membership is \$50 a year, or a full membership is \$60 per
239 year. She explained the differences between the membership tiers.

240
241 Chair Powell asked for members' opinions on membership, and on which membership tier to
242 choose. She continued that historically, the HC has had a membership every year. Ms. Carey
243 spoke in favor of the higher membership tier. Others agreed.

244
245 Ms. Emineth made a motion for the HC to approve an annual membership for the New Hampshire
246 Preservation Alliance, at \$60 per year. Councilor Ellis seconded the motion, which passed by
247 unanimous vote.

248

249 **9) Downtown Video Project Updates**

250
251 Chair Powell asked to hear from Ms. Carey. Ms. Carey stated that she and Alina Nightingale have
252 been working together, and Ms. Nightingale has done an interview with Ms. Zerba. She continued
253 that there is a list of others to interview. Ms. Nightingale filmed some footage in the church, too.
254 She (Ms. Carey) can request to get the footage to Chair Powell, if anyone is interested in seeing
255 the footage before the next meeting. HC members thanked Ms. Carey and Ms. Nightingale. Ms.
256 Carey spoke about some of the other people she and Ms. Nightingale hope to interview, doing one
257 or two a month. Other HC members gave suggestions of people to consider.

258
259 Chair Powell asked Ms. Nightingale what her timeframe is with this project, and whether she is
260 covered on her credits. Ms. Nightingale replied yes, and actually, thanks to this opportunity with

261 the HC, she is in line to move on to the next grade in school in about two weeks. She is most of
262 the way there. HC members thanked Ms. Nightingale for her work.

263
264 Chair Powell stated that it sounds like the HC is making good progress on this aspect of the project
265 – the interviews, the memories and experience in the buildings. She continued that the part they
266 had stalled a bit on was the write-ups of the different buildings. Part of that was trying to figure
267 out who was doing what. She asked Ms. Fortson to pull up the spreadsheet, so they can do some
268 assignments. This is a new platform, so she encourages anyone who has not already done so to
269 join the Microsoft Teams group that Ms. Fortson set up for them. Ms. Fortson replied that actually,
270 the City Attorney’s Office had concerns about the HC using a platform that is not publicly
271 accessible. She continued that the plan moving forward is to do something similar to what the
272 Energy and Climate Committee does – they have a Google Drive that is run through the
273 Community Development Department. They put the Google Drive link at the bottom of their
274 meeting agendas, so that it is viewable to the public. Chair Powell asked if Ms. Fortson will be
275 able to create such an account for the HC. Ms. Fortson replied yes.

276
277 Ms. Fortson stated that for now, she can at least pull up the block research assignments. Discussion
278 ensued about clarifying the assignments so that there are not duplicate narratives being written,
279 and using only one name for each property to avoid confusion. Chair Powell stated that the
280 SharePoint spreadsheet they have for assignments now can be converted to go on the Google Drive.
281 She continued that she attempted to do addresses, but it was hard with some of the big block
282 buildings, so anyone assigned a building will need to confirm the actual street address range that
283 it covers. She suggested they go through the assignments list right now, to clarify who already has
284 which assignments, and give assignments as needed. Discussion ensued.

285
286 Ms. Bouchillon left at 5:26 PM.

287
288 Discussion continued about the block assignments, and about how the street addresses get
289 confusing, because it depends on what source you are using and which year the blocks were split
290 up, because they split up differently. Chair Powell noted that the street addresses she put in might
291 not be accurate – she was doing it purely off the present day. Discussion continued, and members
292 new to the HC asked if they are doing the research through the Historical Society. Chair Powell
293 replied they are doing it through a combination of the Historical Society’s resources, some books,
294 and information from individual property owners. Ms. Emineth added that it is not a massive
295 research project, and they are really looking at just the buildings themselves, not who owned it or
296 anything like that. HC members also clarified, in response to a question, that this is a “rolling
297 project” with no real deadlines. It should not be stressful; everyone can do what they can, and not
298 feel pressured. Chair Powell stated that if anyone wants more information about what the work
299 entails, they can talk about it outside of the meeting, since this meeting is already over time.

300
301 **10) Hard Drive for Italian Neighborhood Project**

302
303 Chair Powell stated that she needs to get the hard drive from Ms. Fortson. Ms. Fortson replied
304 that she has it for her today. Chair Powell stated that they will transfer the Italian Neighborhood
305 media and then get it to the Historical Society.

306

307 **11) US Sesqui-Centennial 2026 Planning & Preparation Updates**

308
309 Councilor Ellis stated that the event has been named Monadnock 250. She continued that Mark
310 Rebillard of the downtown group had the same idea, independently, as the idea Ms. Carey had
311 brought to the HC that they have been working on, of creating a couple of paragraphs about various
312 buildings downtown. Mr. Rebillard's thought was to put A-frame signs outside for the Monadnock
313 250 event, to showcase Keene's history. As Chair Powell said, this is a rolling project, but she
314 thinks by the 4th of July, they will at least have many of the Central Square buildings written up.
315 If the HC also has videos edited, they could put QR codes on the signs so people could watch them.
316 The Monadnock 250 planning group would love to have the HC's write-ups of the buildings, which
317 could be featured, prominently saying that the HC has contributed the research. Jenna Carroll of
318 the Historical Society has said that they do not have someone to do the research, but if anyone
319 wants to go to the Historical Society to do research, staff would be happy to assist.

320
321 Councilor Ellis stated that the Monadnock 250 committee is coming along, and if anyone wants to
322 be involved, they are welcome. HC members asked for a rough idea of the schedule of the event
323 they are planning. Councilor Ellis replied that there will be 4 on the 4th road race, a parade, and a
324 small downtown festival with food and vendors on the 4th of July. She gave more information
325 about the parade route and potential construction. The parade welcomes participation and floats,
326 if anyone's group is interested.

327
328 Chair Powell stated that this is great motivation for the HC to get working on the video project, to
329 make sure they are ready in time to support the Monadnock 250th Group's event. Others agreed
330 and spoke positively about it. Councilor Ellis stated that once the next meeting date has been set
331 for the Monadnock 250 planning committee, she will get that information to Ms. Fortson, to share
332 with the HC. HC members are welcome to join.

333
334 **12) Staff Updates**

335 **A) Jane's Walk (<https://janeswalk.org/>)**

336
337 Ms. Fortson stated that this can be tabled to next month's meeting in the interest of time.

338
339 **13) New Business**

340
341 Chair Powell stated that she connected with people about the Recovering Black History project,
342 and the idea of plaques and signage, but they can talk about this at the next HC meeting.

343
344 **14) Next Meeting – February 11, 2025**

345
346 **15) Adjournment**

347
348 There being no further business, Chair Powell adjourned the meeting at 5:41 PM.

349
350 Respectfully submitted by,
351 Britta Reida, Minute Taker

352

353 Reviewed and edited by,
354 Megan A. Fortson, AICP - Planner

From: [Seraichick Family](#)
To: [Megan Fortson](#)
Subject: Re: Estimated Marker Cost
Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 4:47:49 PM

Megan: No, this is the cost of the sign only. I told the BPPAC I'll dig the hole. Steve

From: Megan Fortson
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 2:55 PM
To: Seraichick Family
Subject: RE: Estimated Marker Cost

Hi Stephen,

Thanks for sending this over! Do you know if this cost includes installation fees?

Have a good evening,
Megan

From: Seraichick Family
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 10:58 AM
To: Megan Fortson
Subject: Fw: Estimated Marker Cost

Megan: I forgot I had Peter Poanessa's (owner of signworx) email of the estimated cost of Historical Marker my organization (Yankee Bottle Club) is proposing.. Peter worked up an estimated cost so I could include it on our Club's proposal. I gave Peter the dimensions and design of the Markers that are presently on the rail trail between Eastern Av. and Water Street and what I believe the present markers are composed of (Aluminum composite). Stephen Seraichick Member Yankee Bottle Club

From: Peter Poanessa
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 9:50 AM
To: Seraichick Family
Subject: Re: Just Checking

Hi Steve,

I have the quote without the sub copy. We will just need that before we place the order. The cost is roughly \$3700 plus shipping. Let me know how you want to proceed.

Thanks, Peter

On Mon, Oct 20, 2025 at 9:35 AM Seraichick Family <seraichick@gmail.com> wrote:

Alan: I have spoken to Peter Poanessa at Signworx. I've given him the design and dimensions of the historical markers on the bike path between Eastern Av. And

Water Street as a reference point. Also, I have told him that the signs are made of metal. I think aluminum? He needs your written description from a computer file after which he can render some kind of cost. I hope I am clear on what he is looking for. Perhaps Peter can better fill you in if I am off the mark. Steve

--



Peter Poanessa

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