



Heritage Commission

Wednesday, June 10, 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**
 - a. Regular Meeting – April 8, 2026
 - b. Joint HDC-HC Meeting – May 13, 2026
- III. Downtown Infrastructure Project Design Elements – Public Works Director**
- IV. National Alliance of Preservation Commissions Membership**
- V. Downtown Video Project Updates**
- VI. Preservation Regional Roundtable Hosted by NHPA & NH DHR – Friday, July 10th from 10 am – 12 pm**
- VII. Monadnock 250 Celebration**
 - a. Photographer for Event
- VIII. Staff Updates**
- IX. New Business**
- X. Next Meeting – July 8, 2026**
- XI. Adjourn**

City of Keene
New Hampshire

HERITAGE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

4:30 PM

2nd Floor Conference Room,
City Hall

Members Present:

Cauley Powell, Chair
Rose Carey
Marilyn Huston
Councilor Molly Ellis
Louise Zerba
Connie Joyce, Alternate
Jill Bouchillon, Alternate
Kathy Halverson, Alternate (at 4:32 PM)

Staff Present:

Megan Fortson, Planner

Members Not Present:

Julie Emineth
Acacia Royce, Vice Chair

1) **Call to Order – Roll Call**

Chair Powell called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM. Roll call was conducted. Chair Powell asked alternate members Connie Joyce and Jill Bouchillon to be voting members today.

2) **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2026**

Ms. Zerba made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 11, 2026. Ms. Carey seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

3) **NH DHR Presentation on CLG Grants – Brandee Loughlin, Preservation Planning & Development Coordinator for NH DHR**

Chair Powell welcomed Brandee Loughlin and asked her to speak.

Ms. Halverson arrived at 4:32 PM. Chair Powell asked her to be a voting member today.

Ms. Loughlin introduced herself and began her presentation with an explanation of the work of the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (NH DHR). She stated that it is a State agency and much of its funding comes from the National Park Service. The NH DHR oversees many federal programs, including the Certified Local Government (CLG) grant program. Ten percent

31 of the federal funding that NH DHR receives must go towards CLG grants. Along with the CLG
32 program, she oversees the Federal Historic Tax Credit program for NH. She continued that Keene
33 has a couple of those, and she gave examples. She also oversees preservation planning in general,
34 and does some Section 106 reviews, because any project that gets federal funding, licensing, or
35 permitting must be reviewed for its potential effects on historic properties. She gave more
36 examples of work that she and the NH DHR do.

37
38 Ms. Loughlin stated that the CLG program involves local, state, and federal governments working
39 together. A CLG community is one that was certified by the State and the National Park Service
40 as having historic preservation as a core value, considering preservation, architectural history, and
41 built history in the community's general planning and decision-making. The state has 30 CLGs,
42 but not all 30 are very active. Keene has been fairly active in the recent past with some grants.
43 One CLG eligibility requirement is having a locally regulated historic district, as proof that the
44 community values historic preservation, but it does not mean only concentrating on that historic
45 district. Another eligibility requirement is having a Historic District Commission that enforces the
46 regulations and "maintains a system for the survey and inventory of historic properties." Not many
47 communities have the resources for that, so the NH DHR allows them to rely on its inventory
48 system for that, which is the EMMIT system people can access online. CLG communities must
49 also provide for adequate public participation and have local preservation programs, including
50 recommending properties for nomination to the National Register.

51
52 Ms. Loughlin continued that regarding the benefits of being a CLG, the biggest one is the grants.
53 It opens doors to funding, technical assistance, and preservation opportunities. Being a CLG
54 participant demonstrates a community's commitment to saving what is important, and it can make
55 it easier to demonstrate readiness to take on successful preservation projects, if applying for
56 something like an LCHIP grant. Regarding what CLG grants can fund, surveys are the big one.
57 She does not know of any other source of funding for survey work. Grants can be for buildings,
58 archeology, oral histories, preparations of nominations for the National Register, research and
59 development of historic context information, writing or amending ordinances, preparing master
60 plan chapters on preservation, training commission members and staff, or publications and
61 educational activities. All of these can be interpreted creatively, which she thinks Keene has done
62 a great job with over the years. In theory, CLG grants can also fund development of architectural
63 drawings and specifications for municipally-owned building preservation projects, preparation of
64 façade studies or condition assessments, and brick and mortar rehabilitation or restoration of
65 municipally-owned properties.

66
67 Ms. Loughlin continued that the CLG program categorizes projects as priorities one, two, and
68 three. It funds surveys and National Register (nomination preparations) 100% with no match
69 required. Preservation planning, and information and outreach projects are 60% funded with a
70 40% match required. Priority two and three projects are funded 60%/40% and 50%/50%.
71 Examples of priority one projects are National Register nominations; town-wide surveys;
72 preservation planning; master plan design guidelines; and information/education, via workshops,
73 local tours, and other methods. One of the biggest information and education grants people apply
74 for is to have the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions come in and do a CAMP training
75 – Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program. It is \$7,000, and the National Alliance brings
76 two to four people to town to do a full day of training, with many topics to choose from, such as

77 the legal basis of having a Heritage Commission fund, public outreach, or disaster planning. For
78 priority two and three projects, the CLG program has about \$60,000 to \$75,000 a year to give out.
79 That has been level funding for many years; they have not received any federal raise in that amount.
80 It is tough to spread that around when there are 30 CLGs in NH, even if only a few are active at a
81 time. Thus, the NH DHR has not gotten to a priority two or three project in at least a decade. They
82 are looking at priority one projects, which is great, because there are other resources available for
83 priority two and three projects, such as LCHIP, Moose Plate, and grants from the Preservation
84 Alliance.

85
86 Ms. Loughlin continued that regarding the match, she likes to emphasize that it does not need to
87 be cash. Most communities do not have cash to match on the grant of, say, \$10,000. Staff time
88 gets calculated at their hourly rate. Volunteer time gets calculated at a certain rate, which is
89 updated yearly. The value of donated goods, services, and spaces is also calculated. For example,
90 if they host an event in City Hall, they would find an equivalent event space and price that out.
91 There are creative ways to do this. It is rare for a community to have a cash match, given how the
92 cost of everyone's time and the cost of the space add up. She does not want communities to be
93 afraid to apply due to worrying about the match. They can always talk to her, if that is the case.
94 She can help them think of what to use for the match.

95
96 Chair Powell asked her to tell them more about EMMIT. Ms. Loughlin replied that it is the
97 Enhanced Management and Mapping Information Tool, and it is free, although you have to make
98 an account to log in with. She continued that you can pull up the map, search by address, or just
99 explore it, and filter the search results in different ways. Regarding the Section 106 projects she
100 mentioned, you can also see the boundary of the project. You can pull up the National Register
101 nominations and see all the background information on the properties. You can search by
102 architectural style, building type, and more, although not all of the filters they want to see are in
103 there. The NH DHR is always working to improve it, based on funding. It is a great program. There
104 is also a section for reports, which includes Keene's Carriage House Report, for example. The NH
105 DHR uses EMMIT internally for many of the submissions they need to review.

106
107 Chair Powell asked what the timing is for the next CLG cycle. Ms. Loughlin replied that the
108 Federal 2026 funding has been passed. She continued that the National Parks Service is working
109 on putting out their funding opportunity. Every year, NH DHR has to apply for the grant from the
110 Park Service, which they are ready to do, but it has not been opened for applications yet. She
111 estimates that NH DHR will be opening the next CLG grant cycle in late summer or early fall.
112 Regarding the process, their fiscal year technically starts October 1st of the year before, so they are
113 well into FY 26. When NH DHR receives the funds, they must all be spent by three years from
114 that date. Thus, by September 30, 2028, in this case.

115
116 How long you expect a project to take is something to keep in mind when you apply for a CLG
117 grant. If the NH DHR asks for letters of intent in the fall, it is a simple process with just a couple
118 of sentences and a ballpark estimate, and once she receives that, she schedules a time to talk with
119 whomever the submitter is. That is when they would flesh out the idea, talk about what they have
120 done in the past and discuss whether this is the right next step, whether it is doable in the timeframe
121 they have, and so on and so forth. From there, she gives folks about two months to get the
122 application put together. The application has been simplified over the years. The hardest part might

123 be the required estimate for the work. For example, if they would be hiring a preservation
124 consultant, they need at least one estimate. The estimate in the letter of intent can be ballpark, but
125 it needs to be a realistic number for the application, so they know the project would be doable. It
126 then takes about a month for the NH DHR to review the application and let the submitter know if
127 the grant is being awarded. Then, the contract takes another couple of months, depending partially
128 on the submitter and partially on the State. Once City staff signs the contract and sends it back to
129 NH DHR, it needs to go to the Governor and Council if it is over \$5,000, which most grants are.
130 That could take about two months. Ms. Loughlin gave an example of how the schedule went last
131 year – folks submitted letters of intent around the end of August and then they went through the
132 process, and the contracts are about to go to the Governor and Council. Once all of that is
133 complete, a community typically has about a year to do the project, so that timing is important to
134 consider. Large projects can be done, but she recommends phasing them.
135

136 Ms. Zerba stated that the HC has had a request for placing historical signage along a walking trail.
137 She asked if the 60%/40% match would apply for that. Ms. Loughlin replied that signage could
138 fall under the category of public outreach and education. She continued that a CLG grant could
139 pay for a preservation consultant and the development of the sign's content, but not the physical
140 sign itself, because for some reason, the National Park Service does not allow that. If the HC/the
141 City has cash to pay for the physical production of the sign, that could be the City's match.
142

143 Ms. Carey asked if there is a clearinghouse where they can reach out to other CLG communities
144 and find out what they are doing. Ms. Loughlin replied that she wishes there were. She continued
145 that she thinks the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) has a listserv. The
146 NAPC is the organization that does the CAMP event she spoke of. Membership to NAPC is
147 exceptionally cheap, since it is based on population, about \$25-50 annually for most NH
148 communities. If the HC joined, they would have access to webinars, a forum or listserv, and other
149 resources. She recommends joining. There is nothing like that specific to just NH, however. She
150 personally is unable to run such a listserv, but if a person wants to take that on and create it, that
151 would be great.
152

153 Discussion ensued about how Heritage Commissions in New England states could exchange ideas
154 and information, and how HC members have looked into what CLG projects other communities
155 have done, but they would not have known about them if they had not sought them out. Ms.
156 Loughlin stated that the NH DHR would like to have a way to showcase the projects, but it is
157 tough, given staff's limited bandwidth. Ms. Carey asked her what CLG projects are
158 new/happening lately. Ms. Loughlin spoke about projects that have been happening in a few NH
159 communities, including surveys, strategic planning for design guidelines for historic districts, and
160 a master plan chapter with infill design guidelines.
161

162 Ms. Carey stated that Keene has some interesting things going on. She continued that Central
163 Square will be dug up for the Downtown Infrastructure Project, which has been controversial, and
164 a project for Marlboro St. is in the works. The HC has thought some about other historical districts
165 or historical neighborhoods, such as Washington St., Court St., and School St. These are things
166 that maybe the HC could inspire, but they are not surveys. Ms. Loughlin replied that she always
167 recommends surveys as a base, but they do not necessarily need to start there. She continued that
168 the more a project can engage the community, the more value it brings. Ms. Carey asked if Ms.

169 Loughlin would be able to help the HC develop some of these ideas. Ms. Loughlin replied yes,
170 absolutely. She continued that she feels that some of the best, most creative projects the NH DHR
171 has had in the past few years have been from Keene, such as Recovering Black Voices, and the
172 community mapping, which she personally finds really valuable.

173
174 From a preservation perspective, these are the kinds of things people might not realize are as
175 valuable as they are. Chair Powell stated that Acacia Royce is not here, but she had been interested
176 in doing something around the cemeteries, so maybe there is something to be done regarding
177 profiling the historic figures in the cemeteries, walking tours of the areas that involve interesting
178 anecdotes about these people's lives. She herself would like to throw a party where people dress
179 up as historic figures from Keene and other people have to guess who they are. Discussion ensued
180 about how fun that would be, and about Keene's cemeteries and their need for preservation. HC
181 members spoke about a grant that funds replacements of military gravestones that are broken, as
182 long as at least one family member authorizes it; and the need for a decent fence in front of the
183 Woodland Cemetery on Beaver St. Chair Powell stated that maybe there could be a CLG project
184 with an educational component that leads to fundraising from the community.

185
186 Chair Powell stated that Ms. Loughlin mentioned disaster planning/flooding, and some Keene
187 neighborhoods are very flood-prone and have had several historic floods. Maybe they can connect
188 dots. It is a story that speaks to multiple generations of people. Discussion continued about how
189 the stories of Keene's historic floods are stories of tragedy as well as family resilience.

190
191 Chair Powell asked Ms. Loughlin if she thinks there is continued support for the NH DHR, or if
192 she sees the support waning, and if there is anything the HC could do to ensure it remains a priority
193 on the state level. Ms. Loughlin replied that everyone in the NH DHR would be eternally grateful
194 if folks would consistently advocate for them. She continued that she cannot speak to the State's
195 desire for funding; they will have to see how the budget cycle happens next year. Regarding how
196 the HC could advocate for the NH DHR, they could speak to their State Representatives and the
197 Governor, as they are the decision makers. Chair Powell stated that the National Parks Service has
198 received major cuts. She asked if that is of concern, or if DOGE has not come for them. Ms.
199 Loughlin replied that DOGE did come for the NH DHR last year, and they had "quite a wild ride"
200 for a couple of months, down to the last minute when several staff members were being laid off.
201 Their supervisor worked hard for them.

202
203 The application for funding opened for the Federal government. They had been holding back the
204 money for quite a while, and the State said, "We can't float you anymore." Thus, NH DHR staff
205 members were set to be laid off, and about two days before their final day, the application opened,
206 and the NH DHR's Deputy Director worked hard to get that submitted. They were not sure when
207 the funding would come through, but they hoped that they would be called back sometime after
208 being laid off. Their last day came, and they all left the office. She had accepted a job with Fish
209 and Game, but as she was about to start there, she got a text from her Deputy Director that her
210 layoff was rescinded and the funding had come through. Everyone was thrilled to be back. The
211 NH DHR is a small staff and everyone gets along great and is genuinely passionate about the work
212 and care for each other. They are all grateful. This year, they are again waiting for the funding to
213 be released, but they do not expect a situation like last year's, because DOGE is not currently
214 halting things. Next year is uncertain – she has heard the President's proposed budget has all of

215 the funding cut again. However, it was proposed to be cut this year, too, and then Congress put it
216 back in.

217
218 Chair Powell stated that perhaps people should advocate for the NH DHR by contacting the Federal
219 government as well. Ms. Loughlin replied yes, absolutely; that is incredibly important. She
220 continued that she did not expect this conversation today, because she had come here to offer
221 her/the NH DHR's support to the HC, and she really appreciates the HC's support of the NH DHR.
222 Discussion ensued, and Chair Powell spoke about how meaningful the CLG program has been for
223 her and the HC during her decade as an HC member, because the CLG program helps guide them,
224 gives them structure, and allows them to be creative and explore different ways to impact the
225 community. She continued that they could not do it without Ms. Loughlin and the NH DHR. Ms.
226 Loughlin replied that the Keene Heritage Commission really is an example. She continued that
227 going back to the topic of ways for CLG communities to connect with each other, she has been
228 trying to work with the Preservation Alliance on some kind of regional roundtable where they can
229 bring people together. Learning from other communities that are actually doing the work is
230 valuable. Perhaps a roundtable like that is something the HC would like to host. They can talk
231 about it and let her know. The NH DHR and the Preservation Alliance would love to come to
232 Keene and invite people from other communities to be part of it, and the HC could make some
233 connections. The idea is to have a few of these roundtables in different parts of the state, starting
234 with one in Bethlehem, for example, so people do not have to drive too far away to participate.
235

236 Ms. Carey stated that she thinks it would be practical and doable for Keene to host such an event.
237 Ms. Loughlin replied that something for the HC to think about, and get back to her on, is whether
238 they think people would be more likely to come to a lunch or evening event. She continued that
239 she can send Ms. Fortson a follow-up email to share with the HC. Ms. Fortson has a copy of her
240 presentation from today. Ms. Fortson replied that she will send it out to the HC tomorrow. Ms.
241 Carey asked if Ms. Loughlin could include a list of which towns did recent CLG projects, what
242 they did, and what they were awarded. Ms. Loughlin replied yes and gave more information about
243 a recent project that Amherst did with online mapping, which they did with only \$7,000 because
244 they had a high school student do a lot of the web design as part of a project. It was matched with
245 volunteer time and staff time. Many communities have done illustrated design guidelines for their
246 HDCs, and there have been many surveys and CAMPs. She gave more details. Rye hired a
247 marketing person to come talk with them about the language they use when they talk about
248 preservation in the community, and how to present why it is valuable in a way that is more positive,
249 to fight the stereotypes about HDCs. That was a creative, interesting project that many
250 communities could probably benefit from. That was a CLG grant of about \$10,000.
251

252 In response to a question, Ms. Loughlin stated that the number of CLG grants the NH DHR gives
253 out each year depends, and this year it was four, as they only had four applicants, so everyone got
254 what they asked for. Other years they have had eight. Then, the NH DHR asked an applicant to
255 reduce their large project and phase it, which they did, and the NH DHR can then give them
256 \$10,000 to \$12,000 per year for three years, for example.
257

258 Chair Powell asked if there were any other questions for Ms. Loughlin. HC members thanked Ms.
259 Loughlin, and Ms. Zerba stated that with all the accolades to Keene, she wants to say that the HC
260 is very fortunate to have City staff members who are so knowledgeable and supportive, which is

261 extremely helpful. Ms. Loughlin replied that she thinks City staff are also fortunate to have such a
262 great HC membership, and this is the first time she has been with a board that was entirely women,
263 and it has been great to be here.

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265
266

4) **Demolition Review Committee**

267 Chair Powell asked Ms. Fortson to remind the HC about the Demolition Review Committee. Ms.
268 Fortson stated that the HC has eight regular members and four alternates. She continued that a
269 sub-committee of the HC is the Demolition Review Committee, which currently is comprised of
270 Councilor Ellis, Ms. Carey, and potentially Ms. Emineth. Any time a demolition is proposed on a
271 structure that is greater than 500 square feet and older than 50 years, it is reviewed by the
272 Demolition Review Committee. Her understanding is that Ms. Carey and Councilor Ellis typically
273 coordinate a time to go out to the site, take photos, and send any feedback they have to the HC
274 staff liaison, who shares it with the HC staff liaison and forwards it on to Building Safety staff in
275 the Community Development Department, who are responsible for the demolition permits. The
276 HC should be electing or re-electing members to the Demolition Review Committee yearly, three
277 regular members and two alternates who can serve in their place. The HC Chair is the one who
278 nominates them, and they are confirmed by majority vote of the HC.

279

280 Chair Powell asked who is interested in serving on the Demolition Review Committee. Ms.
281 Bouchillon and Ms. Carey replied in the affirmative. Discussion ensued. Chair Powell stated that
282 there are not usually many demolitions to consider, although there is one coming up. Ms. Fortson
283 stated that Demolition Review Committee members would get an email from her saying that there
284 is a project proposed for demolition, with some background information. She continued that the
285 Demolition Review Committee then coordinates a time to go out to the site, and because it is
286 technically a public meeting, she needs to post a notice in City Hall like they would for any regular
287 meeting. Then, they go out and document some things and give those to her. It is typically a very
288 low risk thing to do.

289

290 Ms. Fortson continued that a project on Elm St. is coming up and will need members of the
291 Demolition Review Committee. It is 454 Elm St.; a house built in the late 1800s or early 1900s.
292 It is not necessarily a very architecturally significant house, but it is very historically significant
293 house in Keene, so they need at least three members of the Demolition Review Committee to do a
294 site visit with the property owner and his agent. Discussion ensued about how the photos need to
295 be taken by a member of the Demolition Review Committee.

296

297 Per an HC member's question, Ms. Fortson replied that the proposal is to construct 18 new units
298 on the property, so they were going to try and relocate the house because it is located right in the
299 middle of the lot. They were going to try and put it closer to the road. But the house's condition
300 has a lot of rot. Moving it onto a new foundation from its existing stone foundation was already
301 going to be about \$125,000, which is not fiscally an option for the new property owner. Discussion
302 continued about the location.

303

304 Chair Powell asked if anyone else, knowing this information, would like to join the Demolition
305 Review Committee. Ms. Halverson replied that she will. Ms. Fortson stated that Ms. Bouchillon

306 and Ms. Halverson, as alternate members of the HC, can thus serve as alternate members on the
307 Demolition Review Committee.

308
309 Chair Powell made a motion to nominate Ms. Carey and Councilor Ellis for the Demolition Review
310 Committee, and Ms. Bouchillon and Ms. Halverson as alternate members. Ms. Zerba seconded the
311 motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

312
313 Ms. Fortson stated that she will connect with the four of them offline, regarding the details, process,
314 and timeline for reviewing the current project. She continued that if the Demolition Review
315 Committee wants to delay a demolition, they have up to 30 days, and the intent is to have a meeting
316 with the property owner and the applicant to go back and forth.

317
318 HC members asked Ms. Fortson more questions about the 454 Elm St. property. Ms. Fortson
319 replied that those are best answered by the property owner, but she can say that the property's
320 history ties in with Abenaki Indian heritage in Keene and there are surviving family members who
321 have been out to the property recently. The Historical Society is aware of this, too. Discussion
322 continued.

323
324 **5) Downtown Video Project Updates**

325
326 Chair Powell stated that she finally managed to get all the information collated in the Google Drive.
327 She continued that she had a question for Ms. Carey. A large document had several different pieces
328 in it, and she was not sure if that was background research transcribed from the pamphlets, or
329 something Ms. Carey had written. She folded it into the individual properties. Ms. Carey replied
330 that it was transcription from a pamphlet.

331
332 Chair Powell stated that she color-coded things, but she is not sure if the colors show up for other
333 people, or just for her. Ms. Fortson replied that she does not see colors. Chair Powell replied that
334 that can be updated. She continued that many items have been received. It would be good to collect
335 historic photos. If people can work on getting digital photos, for the properties they are working
336 on or any properties, they can put them into the corresponding buckets, because the narratives are
337 really coming along. Now they need visuals to help support them. Anyone can go to the Historical
338 Society and feel free to pull any interesting photos they see. To avoid duplicating work, they should
339 check the Google Drive to see what is in there. That works best if people do not wait until the last
340 minute to put the photos up, and instead put them up when they get them, so others can see what
341 is there.

342
343 Chair Powell asked if anyone has updates. Ms. Carey stated that Alina Nightingale has dropped
344 out of the project, due to having to juggle family issues and schoolwork. She continued that she
345 wonders if the HC wants to duplicate the interview work that Ms. Nightingale was going to do,
346 and if so, how. Ms. Halverson had already done some preparation for that. Whether to try and
347 move forward with the interview piece with different people is something to think about, versus
348 letting it drop, but they need to think fast if they are going to do it. Discussion ensued. Chair Powell
349 stated that she does not think they should let it fall completely, but she does not think they need to
350 rush it. It could be its own project. Maybe the HC could give themselves a month or two to finish
351 the other work for the 250th celebration and then circle back to this in the summer or fall. Others

352 agreed with that approach, and discussion continued about how the first step could be developing
353 the interview questions and figuring out the scale.

354
355 Regarding whom to interview, Chair Powell spoke about the benefits of interviewing both experts
356 and everyday people. She continued that for example, a person who could speak about a church
357 from a leadership and organizational role as well as church patrons who could speak about what it
358 means to them and their experiences. Ms. Carey suggested they move forward with just the one
359 interview with the man from the church, which Ms. Halverson has already prepared for. She
360 continued that it might be able to be part of the 250th project. Councilor Ellis agreed. Ms. Carey
361 asked if they are still thinking about using Fact TV, or if the HC should do their own video. Chair
362 Powell spoke in favor of the HC doing it themselves so they maintain editorial control. Others
363 agreed. Ms. Carey asked, if she and Ms. Halverson develop about 30 questions to ask this man, if
364 Chair Powell would do the interview. Chair Powell replied yes, and she will ask her partner, Evan,
365 if he could use his camera. She could also ask Brian if he could do some editing. He is a former
366 HC member and did the editing for the Italian Neighborhood videos.

367
368 Councilor Ellis stated that she agrees that she does not want the HC to drop this, but she also does
369 not want them to feel rushed and overloaded. Ms. Bouchillon replied that her suggestion is that if
370 they are setting this down to focus on the 250th event, which is a big event that will only happen
371 this one time, they should definitely plan to pick it back up at a certain time, like August or
372 September, and then do so. She continued that she does not want it to go by the wayside. Ms.
373 Carey replied that she can write a little bit up about the scope of the project and who they were
374 thinking to interview, but for now, they can go forward with the one interview. Others agreed.

375
376 **6) US Semi-sesquicentennial 2026 Planning & Preparation Updates**

377
378 Councilor Ellis stated that there are posters now, which she will be delivering tomorrow to all the
379 local schools and some other spots. She continued that planning is going well. They are getting
380 new floats, new sign-up tables, and Ms. Bouchillon has a wonderful project going for a cooling
381 station and table on emergency awareness. At the last HC meeting, they had briefly touched on the
382 idea of having a photographer to document the event. The Mayor happened to say, “Oh, we need
383 to hire a photographer.” She said she would speak to the HC about it. She wonders what the HC
384 thinks about potentially chipping in towards a photographer, so they could say that the HC
385 sponsored the photos to document the 250th for posterity. Also, she will be looking at quotes, so
386 she is open to suggestions for photographers to consider.

387
388 Chair Powell asked what the group thinks about financially supporting the event photography.
389 Others replied that they want an idea of what it would cost. Councilor Ellis replied that once she
390 gets some quotes, she will email Ms. Fortson. Ms. Fortson replied that the next meeting will be
391 the joint meeting with the HC and the Historic District Commission (HDC) on May 13th. She asked
392 if that will be too late for the HC to make a vote. Councilor Ellis replied that she does not think so.
393 Regarding whether the HC would need to schedule a stand-alone meeting, Ms. Fortson replied that
394 she thinks it could be a quick item of business during the joint meeting. She continued that
395 however, if Councilor Ellis needs a commitment from the HC before then, the vote should be done
396 today. Councilor Ellis replied that she will leave that up to the other HC members. Chair Powell
397 stated that she likes the idea of the HC building a collection of photos, especially if they could

398 connect with the Historical Society about hosting a collection that the HC donates that then is
399 maybe free for community use. She continued that they do not know the cost of the photographer,
400 but if the HC is able to chip in a portion, that makes sense to her. Especially in the era of cell phone
401 cameras, it is easy to not have formal documentation, but some of the most charming and
402 memorable photographs you see of historic gatherings were taken by formal photographers. She
403 asked if the group is comfortable making a commitment to this without a dollar amount, or if they
404 want to hold off. Others replied that they would say that conceptually, the HC supports providing
405 some funding, and they will determine that in May. Ms. Fortson replied that she can add that to
406 next month's agenda.

407
408 **7) Staff Updates**

409
410 Ms. Fortson stated that she heard from Steve Seraichick from the Yankee Bottle Club, and he
411 wanted the HC to know that unfortunately, the Yankee Bottle Club membership is decreasing. She
412 continued that they only had three members at their last meeting. Another organization, the Sons
413 of Union Veterans of the Civil War, used to have a local chapter but is now on hiatus due to lack
414 of membership. Mr. Seraichick said he did not want support or a response from the HC but just
415 wanted them to be aware.

416
417 HC members asked whether Mr. Seraichick said anything about progress on the sign marker. Ms.
418 Fortson replied no, and she assumes that it might not be moving forward, given the membership
419 decline.

420
421 **8) New Business**

422
423 Ms. Joyce stated that the Historical Society is doing the opening of their next display on April 14th,
424 and it would be great if some HC members could go. She continued that people should check the
425 Historical Society's website to make sure that time is correct and get more details. Chair Powell
426 asked if Ms. Fortson could send the HC the date and time of that, and she thanked her for all that
427 she does. Ms. Bouchillon stated that it is April 15th from 4:00 to 6:00 PM.

428
429 Ms. Carey asked if the HC can get a membership to the group Ms. Loughin mentioned, the National
430 Alliance for Preservation Commissions (NAPC). Brief discussion ensued about how the exact
431 membership cost is unknown, but it should be under \$100.

432
433 Councilor Ellis made a motion for the Heritage Commission to pay up to \$100 for a membership
434 to the National Alliance for Preservation Commissions. Ms. Huston seconded the motion, which
435 passed by unanimous vote.

436
437 Discussion ensued about how it would be great if the NAPC had a listserv or forum, or if someone
438 could initiate it, and how that would work.

439
440 **9) Next Meeting – Joint Heritage Commission and Historic District Commission**
441 **Meeting – Wednesday, May 13th at 4:30 PM in Council Chambers**
442

443 Chair Powell stated that the joint meeting with the HDC will be on May 13th, and they will probably
444 be talking about the 250th, so she encourages people to come prepared to share ideas and
445 collaborate. She continued that they can also talk about the CLG conversation they just had,
446 because of course, the HDC can also apply. They might want to jointly apply for things.

447

448 **10) Adjournment**

449

450 There being no further business, Chair Powell adjourned the meeting at 5:40 PM.

451

452 Respectfully submitted by,
453 Britta Reida, Minute Taker

454

455 Reviewed and edited by,
456 Megan A. Fortson, AICP - Planner

City of Keene
New Hampshire

Joint Meeting of the HERITAGE COMMISSION and HISTORIC DISTRICT
COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

4:30 PM

2nd Floor Conference
Room, City Hall

Heritage Commission Members Present:

Acacia Royce, Vice Chair
Rose Carey
Marilyn Huston
Councilor Molly Ellis
Louise Zerba
Cauley Powell, Chair
Connie Joyce, Alternate
Kathy Halverson, Alternate

Staff Present:

Megan Fortson, Planner, Heritage
Commission Staff Liaison
Evan Clements, Planner & Zoning
Administrator, Historic District Commission
Staff Liaison

Historic District Commission Members

Present:

Anthony Ferrantello
Louise Zerba
Sofia Cunha-Vasconcelos, Chair
Hope Benik, Vice Chair
Councilor Ed Haas

Heritage Commission Members Not

Present:

Julie Emineth
Jill Bouchillon, Alternate

Historic District Commission Members

Not Present:

Dave Bergeron, Alternate
Russ Fleming, Alternate
Peter Poanessa, Alternate

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Heritage Commission Chair Powell called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM. Roll call was conducted. Chair Powell invited Ms. Joyce and Ms. Halverson to be voting members tonight.

17 **2. Heritage Commission Updates**

18
19 **A) Downtown Video Project**

20
21 Chair Powell asked Ms. Carey to give an overview of the downtown video project. Ms. Carey
22 stated that the original vision was to document downtown as it is in 2026. She continued that the
23 HC members have done a lot of research, collecting data on the history of buildings and writing
24 short stories about the buildings, and adding in where we are right now in 2026. They have more
25 work to do on that; they have mostly done the research and started the rewrites. They are doing
26 Central Square all the way down to Railroad St. They have several ideas about how to use the
27 information, such as QR codes on buildings.

28
29 Chair Powell stated that they had been thinking about all the changes that will be happening in the
30 community with the Downtown Infrastructure Project, recognizing that a lot of what people look
31 to as resources and materials that community members from a different time period captured to
32 document the time as it was, 50, 100, 200 years ago, and wanting to make sure the HC is doing
33 that work as well. They are taking it upon themselves to begin the process of thinking in that way.
34 As Ms. Carey mentioned, they now have written and photographic materials, and they are
35 considering video components as well.

36
37 Chair Powell continued that in a way, the HC's downtown video project also ties into the
38 Monadnock 250 Event. They had been thinking about different things to do, and that kind of fell
39 into their lap, thanks to Councilor Ellis, who is doing so much good work on Monadnock 250.

40
41 **B) Monadnock 250 Celebration**

42
43 Councilor Ellis stated that Mayor Kahn had originally asked the HC to think about Monadnock
44 250, and the HC decided not to take it on as a group. She continued that however; she was included
45 in the group that formed. They are planning a parade at 11:00 AM on the 4th of July, followed by
46 a sidewalk festival, mainly on Railroad Square and Gilbo Ave. There will be a free film at the
47 Colonial Theater, an expanded Farmer's Market, programming from the Cheshire County
48 Historical Society, and more. The SwampBats will have a spectacular fireworks display the night
49 before, as a kickoff. The 4 on the 4th Road Race happens in the morning. The Monadnock 250
50 group is trying to not clash with anything that is already planned, and to instead work together and
51 lift up everything that is going on that weekend. It is very exciting.

52
53 Chair Powell stated that in honor of the 250th, it is an opportunity for the HC to think about ways
54 to recognize and consider Keene's heritage and what they can do to share the work the HC does
55 with the larger Keene community. There is a lot to think about. For example, they have been
56 thinking a lot about how to make use of the City's social media accounts and hashtags.

57
58 Chair Powell asked if anyone has questions about the HC's work.

59
60 Mr. Ferrantello stated that he has a question about maybe a connection between what Ms. Carey
61 was talking about and Hope Benik's work with the HDC. He continued that Ms. Benik has several
62 draft videos. Maybe they can work together on that. It leads to what the HDC is doing with Keene

63 State College (KSC), which they had a cursory discussion about before, regarding the need to have
64 snippets of video representation of the historical homes that KSC students canvassed. He thinks it
65 would be good for them to work together, instead of everything being isolated.

66
67 Ms. Carey replied that the HC has worked on the downtown, but they do not have specific homes
68 on lower Main St. documented, because they only went from Central Square down to the railroad
69 tracks. Discussion ensued. Mr. Ferrantello stated that the HDC has three buildings canvassed on
70 Court St., and they have identified the developer who has done some of these buildings as well.
71 Maybe they could contact him, and see what other sources he might have, in terms of video
72 documentation and that sort of thing.

73
74 Chair Powell replied that that would be an interesting way to collaborate, because the HC has been
75 doing a number of video projects. She continued that she did not mention earlier that one of the
76 projects they had in mind, which she and Ms. Carey have been working hard on, is with the church
77 at the head of the square, including interviews and writings. That is in the works. There is plenty
78 of room for expansion. Mr. Ferrantello replied yes, the KSC students are not finished. He continued
79 that they did the first wave of building inventories. They will be going further. The church at the
80 head of the square is a huge, wonderful representation of many different architectural styles. That
81 would be a huge project for students to document. It could include the history of it, previous uses,
82 and how it has transformed over the years. He thinks there is a possible connection there between
83 the students' inventories of houses, and what the HC has done. Ms. Carey replied that she would
84 be happy to meet and see what they can do.

85

86 **3. Historic District Commission Updates**
87 **A) Outreach & Engagement Efforts**

88

89 HDC Chair Cunha-Vasconcelos stated that people who want to make changes in the Historic
90 District come to the HDC for permission to do projects, so the HDC's primary function is sort of
91 as a judicial board. She continued that however, Mr. Ferrantello has shared with them some of the
92 work the HDC is doing beyond that. The HDC does not get that many applications, so they were
93 thinking about how else to serve the mission of the Historic District in the between periods. There
94 is a perception that the Historic District is onerous to the people who are within its bounds, and
95 there is not necessarily a broad understanding of the value of it. There was a public referendum on
96 extending the district boundary down Main St. at one point, in the last five or six years. Mr.
97 Clements replied that Rt. 12 was the proposed new southern boundary with a western boundary
98 extension down Gilbo Ave. and Emerald St. Chair Cunha-Vasconcelos replied that she remembers
99 that at some point, there was a question of continuing it down Main St., which was dismissed out
100 of hand. The idea was very unpopular. The Historic District has a great deal of value, economic,
101 cultural, all sorts. The HDC wants to help the public understand some of those and do some
102 community outreach about how special it is that Keene has a Historic District and how valuable it
103 is to the community.

104

105 Chair Cunha-Vasconcelos continued that Mr. Ferrantello's effort with the college was a part of the
106 HDC's outreach efforts. Mr. Ferrantello has already spoken about it. Mr. Ferrantello stated that he
107 had another conversation with the architecture professor, who will help the HDC access some
108 illustrations that the students did. He continued that the HDC can give those to the Library to

109 display. That is the first leg of the work. The second is, as Chair Cunha-Vasconcelos said, to
110 educate the greater community that Keene has historic fabric to look at and to be proud of, and to
111 not be afraid of it or shy away from it. It is an educational process by which people can know that
112 Keene has historic fabric here, in terms of architectural motifs. Ms. Benik will try and create short
113 video clips about that to capture people's attention. As the students continue documenting,
114 inventorying other buildings and giving reports, it is an ongoing education for the public.

115
116 Chair Cunha-Vasconcelos stated that Ms. Benik has taken the lead on some social media presence
117 through the City's accounts, with short videos. Ms. Benik replied yes, the idea is to start very
118 simple, with something like a 15-second video beginning with "*Did you know Keene has a*
119 *Historic District?*" and explain what it is and why it exists. They need to start way at the beginning,
120 because she believes most of Keene's residents do not even know it exists.

121
122 In response to the question, HDC members replied that they think the Historic District has about
123 60 properties. Ms. Benik stated that a couple of years ago, the HDC distributed a flyer to all
124 Historic District residents to make sure they knew they lived in the Historic District. She will be
125 putting together some video content and then giving it to the City to post on their social media
126 channels.

127
128 Chair Powell asked if there have been any applications of note or anything happening with specific
129 buildings in the past year that the HDC wants to share.

130
131 Mr. Clements stated that the St. James Church came to the HDC last year for advice and comment
132 regarding installing rooftop solar on the southern exposure of the parish house. He continued that
133 they have applied to do that. They are scheduled to have a public hearing next Wednesday. Staff
134 is still working with St. James Church to get some more information, so they might end up
135 requesting a continuance to June, but the notice to abutters has gone out and the agenda has been
136 posted. They propose removing the existing slate roof and putting down a standing seam metal
137 roof to then install the solar on top.

138
139 Chair Powell stated that Ms. Zerba generously serves on both the HDC and the HC. She continued
140 that the HC helped to create the HDC. They are meant to always have someone serving in both
141 capacities. If this is of interest to any of her fellow HC members, when Ms. Zerba's term is done,
142 they could consider taking on that role. It is something to think about.

143
144 Councilor Haas stated that the HDC has a tentative site visit scheduled for next Wednesday. Mr.
145 Clements replied yes, at 3:30 PM, open to the public. Brief discussion ensued. In response to the
146 question of whether it is necessary to remove the slate to put in the solar panels, Mr. Clements
147 replied that he does not want to editorialize before the HDC has had a chance to hear the
148 application, but when St. James Church came for advice and comment last year, that was the big
149 question. At this point, staff does not feel that St. James Church has provided enough information
150 to allow the HDC to accurately evaluate that. He continued that the standards are very clear about
151 when you can remove slate and the documentation that is required to prove hardship. Chair Cunha-
152 Vasconcelos replied that she appreciates that the requirements are well laid out.

153

154 Chair Powell asked if anyone else had questions for the HDC about their work. Councilor Ellis
155 asked what types of work the HDC must give permission for. She asked if it is correct that paint
156 color is not something the HDC considers, but rather, it is more about construction. Chair Cunha-
157 Vasconcelos replied that if someone is doing an addition to a home, there are criteria it must meet
158 to be acceptable on a building in the Historic District of a certain classification. She continued that
159 there are multiple classifications within the Historic District. Something like changing windows
160 out would not necessarily come to the HDC unless it was a larger scale change. The HDC does not
161 address the interior of a home, only the exterior. There are many regulations around keeping the
162 exterior consistent to the period that they found it in, because sometimes before it became a historic
163 building, it had already had some alterations over time. It is about stairs, siding, windows, grooves,
164 and other elements that can be seen from the road. Ms. Benik added that another one is equipment
165 put on the roof of a downtown building which is visible from the street.
166

167 Mr. Clements stated that there are different tiers of work. He continued that some are addressed
168 administratively, and some are significant enough to go to the HDC for review and a public
169 hearing. A project of note is the Timoleon's building on Main St., which recently had a lot of
170 masonry tuck pointing repair work done. That was evaluated at staff level, and the review was to
171 make sure that the mortar they used to repair the existing mortar in the brick was compatible with
172 historic brick. Historic brick is softer and more porous, which is one of the reasons why the City
173 restricts it being painted. For the tuck pointing repair, the mason brought a sample to a lab and used
174 the lab results to create a custom mortar mix that chemically matched what was on the building.
175 He gave more information about the mortar. Chair Powell stated that the work and the building
176 look beautiful. Mr. Clements replied that there were some structural integrity concerns and the
177 new owner was concerned about doing the work at first because of the reputation of historic
178 districts. He continued that staff were able to talk him into doing the work, telling him the City
179 would be accommodating and flexible. They were, for the most part, although one Councilor raised
180 concerns because it was surprising. The process has changed from when they had to go through to
181 do similar repair work, but the results show that the mason did a very good job.
182

183 4. Staff Updates

184 A) **Downtown Infrastructure Project Updates**

185
186 Chair Powell asked staff for an update on where the Downtown Infrastructure Project stands,
187 specifically as it pertains to historic heritage. Mr. Clements replied that the City received two bids
188 on the latest round of the project, which the Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure
189 Committee is evaluating. He continued that his understanding is that the low bid is about \$2 million
190 over what was budgeted. The first time it went out to bid, all the bids were over, so staff adjusted
191 the project scope and timeline to align with what the bids were looking to do. There will probably
192 need to be another alteration of scope related to the last round of bids. He knows people hoped to
193 see details of how the work would complement the historic character of Central Square and the
194 downtown. Some of that has been rolled back, such as the pedestrian scale lighting bollards. He
195 does not know what happened with some of the details that were proposed for Railroad Square.
196 They will have to see what final budget and scope look like. He asked Ms. Fortson about CLG
197 grants.
198

199 B) **Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant Opportunities**

200

201 Ms. Fortson stated that she has not inspected every detail of the CLG grants, but yes, they could
202 potentially look into that for aesthetic changes. She continued that she does not know if they could
203 use CLG grant funds for municipal improvements. Someone had come to the HC about putting a
204 historic plaque along the rail trail, and the Division of Historic Resources (DHR)'s response was
205 that they could help fund the design of it, but not the installation. Thus, that might have to come
206 out of the HC's budget if they wanted that. Regarding the downtown project, the hope and plan is
207 for it to begin this summer, even if it is over budget.

208

209 Ms. Carey asked if there is a way the HC could help with CLG grants. Ms. Fortson replied that
210 they can discuss it at the June HC meeting. She continued that her understanding is that the DHR
211 expects the grant application process to start in September, because they just submitted their notice
212 to the Federal government to get the funding.

213

214 Mr. Ferrantello asked if it is correct that the City could still negotiate with the lowest qualified
215 bidder to do some deductive alternates to get the price lower. He continued that then perhaps if
216 they take out a few things, they could put in historically based things they want. Mr. Clements
217 replied that there probably will be some amount of negotiations, but unfortunately from this
218 group's perspective, probably it will be the historical and aesthetic details that are removed to
219 make up the more essential infrastructure improvements. He continued that at one point, the City
220 received funds from the Northern Borders Commission's "Timber for Transit," for the solar
221 covered parking structure behind the transportation center. He does not know if they still have that
222 grant, or if the adjustment to the timeline affected that. Ms. Fortson replied that she does not know,
223 either. She continued that for CLG grants, you have to have a project ready to go. Mr. Clements
224 added that the CLG grant would help with design. For example, if they wanted to come up with
225 an aesthetic design document for Central Square or to identify the details of where to add things,
226 the grant money could be used for that, but not the physical purchase.

227

228 Chair Powell stated that one of the opportunities she imagined they would have by joining together
229 in this meeting is to discuss CLG grants. She continued that she knows the HDC has successfully
230 had their own administered, and it is one of the bread-and-butter things the HC has been doing for
231 a while now. They do not have a current project slated. Maybe they could brainstorm about things
232 of interest or things happening in the community that they might want to focus on. The
233 infrastructure seems like a good opportunity to revisit downtown, if there are specific projects to
234 consider. It kind of leans into the T-Mobile Hometown Grant program, which might yield
235 additional funding if they choose to pursue it, for the physical elements that are being removed
236 from the plan. She thinks they would meet many of the technical requirements for the T-Mobile
237 grant, but it depends on the timeframe and when the project would break ground. It might not make
238 sense to pursue it for a year or two, but they could prepare. She asked how the group feels about
239 trying to save some of the features that have been cut, and whether they want to pursue this. If so,
240 maybe they could form a subcommittee/working group to begin researching other grant
241 opportunities as well.

242

243 Mr. Ferrantello stated that he likes that approach. He continued that rather than having historic
244 things play second fiddle to the infrastructure, he thinks they should be a focal point. The historic
245 fabric is important, and they should find the funds to do it.

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Ms. Fortson stated that at the end of the day, it is an infrastructure project that needs to happen to replace necessary utilities underneath Main St. first and foremost. She continued that she has invited the City Engineer to the June HC meeting and maybe they could discuss these types of things, but they need to let the project get underway first and then see if they can then “put some decorations on the cake at the end.”

Chair Cunha-Vasconcelos stated that having this conversation now, setting the intention to work together on this, is a good place to start. She continued that it sounds wonderful to her.

Councilor Haas stated that he does not think anything related to the Historic District or heritage was taken out of the project, so they should approach it with idea of putting things in. He continued that there are different kinds of lighting, some better than others, and he does not think the lighting that was taken out was necessarily historic lighting. The opportunity here is to add on. Discussion continued, and Chair Powell stated that right now, they cannot identify exactly what they want to be put in, because they do not even know what is currently going to be in, but it is about the principle of it all, and recognizing that maybe there is something to be said or done to commemorate this moment in the community’s heritage, and to find a way to visually make a cohesive addition. She likes Councilor Haas’s point about making additions.

Mr. Ferrantello stated that regarding Ms. Fortson’s metaphor, this is not about “decorations on a cake.” He continued that the cake is already baked. It is historic cake that they need to preserve, not add to as an afterthought. Discussion continued. Ms. Fortson stated that once the HC and HDC decide what it is they want to contribute or what changes they want, they can maybe use CLG funds as a starting point for designing something and maybe get a T-Mobile Hometown grant to implement it. Chair Powell replied that she loves that idea, and it is also an opportunity to consider community engagement. She continued that although they have not done it before, she thinks there is opportunity for tabling at community events, with representatives from the HC and the HDC, to connect with people and let them know what the groups are doing. If they are working toward something specific, such as getting benches for downtown, they could have ways for the community to get involved. Having a human connection with people creates that opportunity.

Mr. Clements agreed and suggested they could target a specific area, like Railroad Square, and come up with visions and goals. Ms. Fortson stated that the T-Mobile grants are flexible, because they are split into quarters and just keep rolling. She continued that they could apply at any point in the quarter and get notified within 60 days. Chair Powell stated that there are other grant opportunities to investigate if this is something they are interested in. Ms. Fortson replied that the County’s grant manager is a great resource. Discussion continued.

Chair Powell stated that Brandee Loughlin, the CLG grant representative from the DHR, came and spoke to the HC last month, and gave a presentation. She continued that they could pass along those slides to the HDC so they can have the information, too. There are some funding concerns on the federal and state levels, so it would be great for people to express support for the CLG grant program, which has done a lot for Keene.

291 Chair Powell asked if anyone had a project idea today that they wanted to discuss. She continued
292 that they do not need to discuss anything specific today. Councilor Haas stated that it is the end of
293 the fiscal year, and reports to the City Council from all the City's boards and commissions come
294 up annually. The reports are, in part, an accounting of what they have done over the past year and
295 what their mission is, but also, it is a time for the boards and commissions to advertise/celebrate
296 what they have done. It is another way of getting communications out. The report can be a simple,
297 written document, or a verbal report presented to the Council in person. He recommends this be
298 an agenda item for both the HC and the HDC in the next month or two. Discussion ensued.

299
300 Ms. Carey asked if the Downtown Infrastructure Project construction will interfere with the
301 Monadnock 250 celebration on the 4th of July. Discussion ensued. Councilor Haas stated that his
302 take, which he tells everyone, is that everything is in flex until ground is broken. Councilor Ellis
303 stated that the planning group tried to base the parade route around what was anticipated six months
304 ago to be the first phase of construction. She continued that much is unknown right now, but they
305 are trying to work around the construction. Mr. Ferrantello stated that safety is the priority.
306 Discussion continued about the parade route.

307 308 **C) T-Mobile Hometown Grant Program**

309
310 (Minute Taker's note: discussed in conjunction with the previous agenda item).

311 312 **5. New Business**

313
314 Councilor Haas gave information about an upcoming "Mayor's Bike Ride" at 11:00 AM on
315 Saturday.

316
317 Ms. Fortson stated that she had a Teams meeting yesterday with Ms. Loughlin from the DHR, and
318 both the DHR and NH Preservation Alliance are interested in hosting an "office hours" event in
319 Keene in July, potentially July 10, about 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. She continued that the intent is
320 for them to do a 10- to 15-minute presentation on who they are and then answer people's questions.
321 Rather than having to schedule presentations with individual groups, this is an opportunity for
322 people to come and ask questions and do networking with other similar organizations. The DHR
323 and NH Preservation Alliance are trying to do this on a zero-dollar budget. She told them she
324 would bring it up to the HC. They are looking to use a City facility, such as the Library or Parks
325 & Rec, and they hope that the HC's budget could cover the cost of such a room reservation, which
326 would be about \$100. She will get more information about it, as details are still being finalized.
327 HC members can let her know if they are interested, and/or if they know of other groups that would
328 be interested. They expect about 30 attendees.

329
330 Chair Powell stated that the HC would be glad to talk about supporting this. She continued that
331 she loves the idea of connecting with other groups. Ms. Fortson replied that she is sending Ms.
332 Loughlin the contact information for the Southwest Regional Planning Commission, to spread
333 awareness of the opportunity to other towns. She continued that people can let her know if there
334 are specific topics they want the DHR and the NH Preservation Alliance to talk about, and she will
335 pass that along.

336

337 Chair Powell asked if there was any other new business, or anything anyone wanted to share.

338

339 Ms. Huston stated that she will be going to DC soon. She continued that she thinks they are about
340 ready to close their grant period, and a new one will start. She will get all the paperwork. Chair
341 Powell stated that for anyone who does not know, Ms. Huston is a leader in the Daughters of the
342 American Revolution.

343

344 Ms. Fortson stated that the Bicycle Pedestrian Plan update is going on right now, with a live survey
345 on the City's website. She encourages people to fill it out before the end of July.

346

347 Ms. Joyce encouraged people to visit the fabulous exhibit the Historical Society has right now.

348

349 Brief discussion ensued about the work that is happening with the Transportation Heritage Trail.

350

351 **6. Adjournment**

352

353 There being no further business, Chair Cunha-Vasconcelos adjourned the meeting at 5:30 PM.

354

355 Respectfully submitted by,

356 Britta Reida, Minute Taker

357

358 Reviewed and edited by,

359 Megan A. Fortson, AICP - Planner

National Alliance for Preservation Commissions

Membership Pricing

Options built for individuals, communities and organizations just like you.

Communities and Organizations

Features all of the membership benefits listed above. Member benefits will include all commissioners and/or staff within your organization.

\$75

- ✓ Commissions: Municipal/county population less than 5,000
- ✓ Local nonprofit organizations

\$150

- ✓ Commissions: Municipal/county population of 5,000 to 50,000
- ✓ Regional or state wide nonprofit organizations

\$200

- ✓ Commissions: Municipal/county population greater than 50,000
- ✓ State Historic Preservation Offices
- ✓ Federal Agencies
- ✓ National Nonprofit Organizations

Become a Member

Renew Membership

Local invite for Regional Roundtables

KEENE

The Keene community is pleased to welcome the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance and the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources for a Regional Preservation Roundtable on Friday, July 10 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Keene Public Library in Heberton Hall.

Community members, local organizations, property owners, municipal leaders, and anyone interested in preserving historic places in Keene and surrounding communities are invited to attend this informal gathering. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss local preservation topics, connect with others from the region, and learn about preservation tools and resources.

Anyone interested in saving special places in their community — whether new to preservation or longtime advocates — is encouraged to attend.

Additional Regional Roundtables will also be held this summer in Bethlehem on June 12 and Claremont on June 26.

Please register online at www.nhpreservation.org/events-calendar

The Regional Roundtable series is organized by the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance and the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources to foster collaboration, share resources, and support preservation efforts across New Hampshire.

