

Peterborough Heritage Commission Minutes April 2016 (DRAFT)

Meeting opened at 5:00 pm, April 7, 2016

Present: Peggy Shaughnessy, Bruce Batten, Tyler Ward, Mose Olenik

Absent: Richard Estes, Debby Kaiser, Sheila Kirkpatrick, Melissa Stephenson, Doug Ward

Note: Since there was not a quorum items were discussion only—no motions approved.

GAR Hall

Peggy reported on her telephone meeting with Peter Michaud of NH Historic Resources about a preservation easement for the GAR Hall. He had asked her several questions some of which she was unable to answer but concluded that the Heritage Commission was not ready for him to engage in a meeting with us. For example he asked Peggy if the Attorney General's office asked that a Preservation Easement be put on the property. He had also stated that if the building is on the NH Historic Registry it would be removed without question, if the building were moved from atop the hill. We will check to verify if it is in fact on the registry.

In creating a Preservation Easement there are standards concerning topography that would make it difficult to move the structure. If there would be a change requested in the standards set forth a formal process that would have to be enacted.

Michaud did state that the Peterborough Heritage Commission should be the entity holding the easement.

There was also some discussion about the statue and canons on the property and their possible fate when the building is developed with only speculation coming from the Commission.

We would like Rodney to let the potential buyers know that we need more time.

Main Street Bridge

Peggy related a comment made at the Town session by one of the citizens that it was terrible that the town would spend so much money to replace the stones on the bridge. Even though she had little understanding of the actual commitment ---for example that town is only responsible for 20% of the cost---the concern is how do we address these comments and other negatives so that the community has the right information and understanding of the project.

River Park Project

Peggy reported that both Debby Kaiser and Dick Estes met with Silvia Benedito the landscape architect whose plans for the river park project won the MacDowell competition. It was thought that they were heard in reference to the GAR Hall and protecting the vegetative environment. Peggy thought that when completed the park would be a positive for bringing more folks into Peterborough. Not known yet is the cost of the project and how the town will pay for it.

Other Business

Peggy would like to have stationery for the Heritage Commission, with a logo --possibly a silhouette of GAR Hall—that we could pay an artist create for us.

Tyler mentioned that it would be great if the painting of the GAR Hall by O. Louis Guglielmi housed at

the Smithsonian American Art Museum could be on loan, perhaps with the help of MacDowell, the 100th Anniversary celebration of the Townhouse.

It was mentioned that a presence by Heritage Commission at Greenerborough would be great but after some discussion it was decided that we are too late to do it this year. It's May 7th.

Bruce mentioned that we were planning to give a certificate of recognition honoring a business/person who had done a commendable job in preserving a property, but we had not yet taken action.

Tyler has asked Fash to create a map of all the demolitions in Peterborough since 1990. Mose mentioned that we need to look at all of the info presented by Debby and her concerns about the demo process at our next meeting.

Tyler mentioned that Dough said a building on Union next to the Vet's Office and owned by MacDowell Colony is in disrepair and we should find out if there is a plan for its future.

Meeting adjourned at 6:02.

Respectfully submitted by Mose Olenik