

## Minutes for Thursday, June 14, 2012 PETERBOROUGH HERITAGE COMMISSION

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The Heritage Commission's mission is to identify, preserve and protect the architectural, historical, cultural, and social heritage, including historical landscapes, view sheds, building in their landscapes, the natural resources and the ecological diversity formed by the rivers, valley, and mountains, in order to sustain the spirit of the community and its economic vitality, for the benefit of future generations.

The commission proposes to do this by assembling an inventory of those resources, and working with other local boards and committees, state agencies, as well as private citizens, for the proper recognition, use and protection of these special historical features to achieve our goals.

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The regular meeting of the HC was convened on June 14th, 2012 at 4:00. an hour earlier than usual to accommodate the out of town visitors, interested in purchasing the GAR Hall for rehabilitation and preservation. (GAR, Grand Army of the Republic, was established to support the veterans of the Civil War)

Present were: Duffy Monahan , acting as chair in Debby Kaiser's absence, Sheila Kirkpatrick, Mose Olenik, Bob Duhaime and David Simpson.

Also, Mr. and Mrs Jason Hackler, and Max Ferro, architect for the Hacklers.

The only subject on the agenda was the proposed purchase of the GAR Hall and the adjustments to be made to accommodate it's use as a single family private residence.

Strong objection was made to this use, believing instead it should be retained for public use, perhaps as a meeting hall for veterans groups or scouts.

Otherwise it was feared that it's patriotic history would be compromised.

Discussion came around to determining selling would be the only way offered so far to save the historic structure from deterioration, since no other practical offers or suggestions had been made. A satisfactory compromise was reached, although not unanimously, and the following points were established:

The Hc would approve the purchase of the Hall for a private single family residence.

External adjustments would require monitoring and approval by the Heritage Commission.

The hillside location and slope thereof would be protected, preserving the premier view presented to the town.

Adjustments for driveway requirements would require ZBA assistance, and the HC would send a letter supporting such a variance.

The Hacklers planned to keep the "GAR" sign and appropriate historic statuary ( cannons and cannonballs), but a consensus was reached in favor of moving the statue of the soldier. Since it originally stood in Putnam Park, it was decided returning it there would be appropriate and allow better access for patriotic ceremonies and permit easier reading of the attached plaque. The plaque is significant in that among the names of the Peterborough deceased are two non-military women who were also killed in service.

A preservation easement would be attached to the property, wording to be determined by Duffy and Mr Ferro and would be held by the Preservation Alliance. A Draft Preservation easment , modeled on the the Preservation Alliance, was generally agreed upon

Before buying the property, the Hacklers wanted to get approval from NHDES for a carriage-house style garage behind the building.

Also they want to get a variance or special exception from the ZBA for a driveway on the property without the 10 foot setback

It was suggested that not getting DES and ZBA approval might terminate the purchase.

These points were moved and seconded. The vote passed by a vote of 4 to 1 and will be presented to the Select Board at their next meeting, Tues. June 19th, 7pm., for public input on the sale .

Sheila Kirkpatrick, secretary