

PETERBOROUGH HERITAGE COMMISSION

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 educating the public, working with private citizens, other local boards and committees, state agencies, assembling an inventory of those resources, for the proper recognition, use and protection of these special historical features to achieve our goals.

Minutes of meeting, November 10, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm

In Attendance: Duffy Monahon (chair), Sheila Kirkpatrick, Debby Kaiser, Dick Estes, Mose Olenik, David Simpson, Joe Byk (Selectboard liaison), Andy Dunbar and Susan Phillips-Hungerford

1. The **minutes** of our September meeting were accepted as corrected.

2. NH Preservation Alliance Tour & Meeting at Mariposa on Nov 4

Duffy reported that the tour included meetings in Harrisville, Hancock, Jaffrey and in Peterborough. The HC distributed copies of the brochure on Russell architecture in town to use as a guide for the walking tour through town with stops at the "War Gates", the Town House and Unitarian Church, All Saints Church and a visit to the Mariposa/ old Baptist Church for lunch and a speech by David Blair explaining the history of the historic building and community involvement in preserving it as well as how the new status on the NH historic register had helped the museum to attain a grant to support insulation measures to the plant.

3. GAR easement progress with NH Preservation Alliance

Duffy explained that she and Sheila had passed on the Preservation Alliance's "boilerplate" form for preservation easements to Carol Ogilvie and Rodney Bartlett. The HC feels that the GAR, as an ensemble with its canons and statue, and because of its time as the Academy are all of historical significance. Joe Byk inquired as to whether the Town would create the easement before selling the property. This would be the best procedure according to the Committee. Joe added that at the moment there is only one interested party, Jason Hackler, who has done an historically sensitive job of renovating the Goyette building. He is apparently not aware of the intention to create a preservation easement but was open to working with the Heritage Commission on the project. He would like to develop the GAR as a single family dwelling.

4. **Select Board Position on the Bridge Solution.** Joe began by pointing out the design materials (H&T alternative 2) that have been the basis for public discussion in recent meetings do not represent plans but are merely concepts. The process to come calls for NH DOT to present a plan that would subsequently be subject to the CSS (Context Sensitive Solution) process where public opinion would once again be consulted. He

suggested that our petition and objections had, therefore, been premature. He suggested that the only alternative to the extra wide bridge and a traffic oval would end up being a stoplight and that this would not be acceptable. He was interested in traffic calming measures and improvement of safety at the intersection. Dick Estes pointed out that at various public meetings the Select Board has presented the “concept” that they unanimously chose as the basis for planning, pushing aside criticism from the HC and many concerned citizens arguing that we had to have a plan in order to continue with the process. Mose concurred, citing Barbara Millers presentation before SW Regional Planning on October 6th in the Town House that made it appear that the citizens were in favor of this plan. Joe referred several times to a “Plan 3” and the HC needs to know the details of this plan. Susan Phillips-Hungerford showed the HC the 2002 traffic study done for the Development Planning Project with Peter Reiner about the bridge intersection. There are no other studies available to our knowledge. The group emphasized the importance of formulating a succinct argument in favor of retaining courtesy corner and a narrower bridge. CR Willeke of DOT recently told Duffy that usually only 1 lane is kept open during bridge repair or construction. Keeping only one lane open would make the wider (and more expensive) bridge construction unnecessary. Duffy will put together a packet to give to the members of the Governor’s Advisory Council on Intermodal Transportation that were present at the meeting on October 6th.

5. Options for Bridge Rehabilitation Duffy reported on her participation at an Historic Trust Conference in Buffalo in a Bridge Rehabilitation session and announced there will be a NHDOT seminar in December on Bridge Rehabilitation. According to one expert there may be alternatives to a total reconstruction. In his practice he “had never seen a concrete core bridge that couldn’t be rehabilitated” and gave her many specific questions that must be addressed before accepting the expertise done by Hoyle and Tanner, adding that engineers almost always propose reconstruction. But given the economic climate and the historic considerations, the rehab option should definitely be considered.

6. Report from Peterborough Agriculture Commission Duffy has joined the Ag Com and reported on their goals to maintain the agricultural heritage and acreage in town, encourage local farmers and farmer’s markets.

7. Grove St. Barn Demolition Update Rick Monahon and David Squires inspected the barn with Mary Shaunessy and hope that the barn can be stabilized for a reasonably small amount, thus giving time for the owners to work with Thea Bennett at People’s United Bank on an option (construction bridge loan) for potential buyers who might otherwise have problems getting a mortgage on the property with the unrepaired barn as a liability.

8. Demolition Permit Process Duffy checked back with Carol Ogilvie about improving the permit process to better define what constitutes demolition and the point at which a permit is required in order to avoid owners stripping a house of all historic elements before applying for a permit. Carol promised to remind Dario.

9. Civil War Book by M. Ames’s Peterborough ancestor Duffy will ask Bob Duhaime about any progress in contacting him to get permission to zerox the text.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03. Our next meeting will be on Dec. 8 at 5pm.