

Peterborough Heritage Commission

**APPROVED** Minutes

October 9, 2014

**Present:** Bruce Batten, Richard Estes, Sheila Kirkpatrick, Mose Olenik, Peggy Shaughnessey, Melissa Stephenson

**Absent:** Debbie Kaiser

**Also Present:** David Simpson, Tyler Ward

The meeting opened at 5:30 p.m.

**Agenda Item I.** David Simpson, 1833 Society, Library Update

David Simpson representing the 1833 Society, a sub-group of the Peterborough Town Library Board of Trustees, presented an update of planning for the town library including:

- Progress on purchase of the Fairpoint Communications back-end lot. The contract is ready for Fairpoint representative signatures
- Although use of the lot as not yet been determined it was noted that there is room for 20 parking spaces along the river.
- Soil and land surveys have been scheduled and could affect the agreed purchase price (\$28,000.00).
- The Conservation Commission will also be kept informed of the survey reports and findings, due to the property's proximity to the river and town legal set back requirements.
- This information will also be presented to the Board of Selectmen, with the goal of transferring the lot to town ownership with the additional incentive to use the space as a staging area for the Main Street bridge construction equipment. Rodney Bartlett is negotiating with the bridge contractors to leave the proposed space complete as a parking lot once the bridge work has been completed.
- Abutters on both sides of the river will also be updated as plans unfold.
- Simpson noted that once the lot has been purchased, Fairpoint becomes a non-conforming building due to size and number of allotted parking spaces.
- Plans for the new library include orienting it to the west, facing the river.
- Timeline for all construction is dependent upon raising the money for the project which has an estimated cost of \$400/finished square foot.
- Center Line Architects of Bennington, Vermont, are slated for this work.
- It was noted that the library front doors will open on Saturday, the 12<sup>th</sup> of October as part of Peterborough's 275<sup>th</sup> celebrations.

David Simpson thanked the commission and left the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

**Agenda Item II.** Photography Exhibit

Members took time to view the Mose Olenik photographs of Peterborough's Second Cemetery displayed in the town hall stairwells.

- Discussion followed regarding new ideas for the next exhibit including: *This is My Peterborough, Peterborough Heritage Trees, Special Peterborough Places*
- It was agreed to pursue *This is My Peterborough* and invite public photo submissions.

**Action Items:** Debbie and Mose will publicize the planned juried selection process. All members are asked to invite photographers they know to submit photographs to the commission's attention via email.

Bruce Batten noted that Portsmouth, NH has a walking tour. Tracy Messer will be attending the PHC meeting next month.

### **Agenda Item III. Parade**

Updates and finalization of plans, and meeting times and places, were confirmed.

Peggy S. noted that fundraising for the William Diamond plaque is still in progress. She is waiting to hear from several people she has contacted regarding contributions.

**Action Item:** Mose will speak with Cole and ask for a contribution toward the remaining \$1,000 needed for the plaque.

### **Agenda Item IV. Approval of August and September Minutes**

Sheila moved that the minutes be approved, Estes seconded, all were in favor and the minutes were approved.

### **Agenda Item V. New Business**

- Melissa Stephenson updated the commission about probable demolition of the farmhouse on Taggart Lane.

**Action Item:** Sheila will check with Dario regarding demolition permit submission for this building

**Action Item:** Peggy will include Demolition on the November agenda.

- Tyler Ward reported that the Scott Farrar barn has been completely dismantled and 95% recycled. The farmhouse is now in the deconstruction process. He also noted that the Harris Center has completely removed the house and barn from the 137 property and has begun to cut trails.
- Peggy suggested reaching out to other town heritage commissions for contact, support, information, and general exchange of ideas. The commission endorsed this idea.

### **Agenda Item VI. Old Business**

- Mose inquired about a complete report for the heritage district and a study of the bridge project.
- There is a Heritage Commission bookshelf with CDs, etc. in the basement of the town house.

- It was mentioned that a future Heritage Commission event could include a talk by Bruce Batten about Life in Peterborough in the 1800s.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Stephenson