

Peterborough Heritage Commission
Approved Minutes
6:00 P.M. Thursday December 13, 2018

Present: Debby Kaiser; Jason Pelletieri; Tina Rapp; Peggy Shaughnessy; Melissa Stephenson; Doug Ward arrived shortly after 6:00 p.m.

Absent: Peggy Van Valkenburgh; Tyler Ward, *Select board liaison*

The meeting opened promptly at 6:00 p.m.

Report on the Select Board Meeting with Committee Chairs/Volunteer Handbook
Peggy S. summarized the recent select board meeting.

Minutes of the Meeting of November 2018

Motion:

Peggy Shaughnessy made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 2018 meeting

Tina Rapp seconded.

All were in favor and the motion passed.

Planning for 2019

Centennial Celebration Projects

Peggy Shaughnessy handed out a list of some of the projects the Heritage Commission would like to address in the coming year:

- Meet with groups supporting local businesses
- Roy's Market windows as an ongoing Historic Photo Display venue
- Communication with Cultural Resources regarding Main Street Bridge Mitigation Projects
- Design Heritage Commission stationery and cards
- Contact and connect with neighboring Heritage Commissions
- Organize and document Heritage Commission archives
- Write thank you letters to those businesses participating in Pop-Up Museum Giving the participating businesses the photos of their buildings
- Children's Treasure Hunt Tour and Activity Booklet
- Update The Benjamin F. W. Russell Tour pamphlet

The next Town House Photography Exhibit, opening the First Friday of February, will display the photo of Peterborough veterans taken in 1918 on the front steps of the Town House as will the photo taken on the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day.

McGreal Home

Tina Rapp went to a recent education session at the Shieling Forest barn where the McGreal property manager was also in attendance. She noted he received many concerned questions about the condition of the house.

Doug Ward noted the necessity for obtaining a copy of the trust document in order to understand Mrs. McGreal's wishes, any legal obligations for the building, and and to have a copy of it on record.

Demolition Committee Report

Debbie Kaiser expressed her desire to leave this committee and to become an alternate to the Heritage Commission.

Discussion about the MacDowell Colony's demo permit for the Union Street property submitted on December 3 brought up the constraining amount of time the Demolition Committee has to meet and respond to demolition applications. (Seven days.)

Doug emailed David Macy about the prospect of salvaging elements of this building and received a detailed letter in reply as to the Colony plans are and what the site will look like post demolition. (The foundation footprint will be left in place and the property planted with wildflowers.)

A question was raised as to whether or not the stone wall will remain in place.

It was noted that some items and windows have already been removed.

It was also noted that the language in the chapter on town building codes that applies to demolition doesn't refer to building interiors.

Doug Ward notified Tim Herlihy that the Demolition Committee met on December 9th and voted to go thru the full review process. Because this building meets all the criteria of an historic building, this includes a public hearing.

The hearing is scheduled for December 27th at 5:30 p.m. in the Town House.

Action item: Doug Ward will contact and notify Matt Waitron and David Squier of the public hearing time, date, and place.

Peggy noted that Amy Jenkins will film the demolition process at Union Street.

Discussion continued regarding how to improve the Demolition Permit Application process time-line in order to allow time for full consideration of any future requests.

It was generally agreed that the Commission would submit draft changes to this end by the March 1, 2019 deadline for inclusion in the warrant articles.

Future applicants upon presentation before the Commission should receive a copy of the permit application and protocol guidelines, that include a 30-day review period. Tina Rapp will draft a “cheat sheet” for Demolition Committee to review.

Debbie Kaiser suggested general, pro-active outreach to demolition contractors to clarify and further understanding of protocols and procedures. Articles in the paper and on the town website were also mentioned.

Additionally it was suggested that the Heritage Commission send a brochure and/or letter to eligible homeowners in Peterborough regarding the benefits of listing property with the NH State and National Registers.

New Membership

Motion:

Melissa made a motion to accept Debbie Kaiser’s request to become alternate member of the Commission.

Doug Ward seconded.

The Commission thanked her for her many years of service and noted with relief that she will not be leaving the post completely.

The motion passed.

Motion:

Peggy S. moved to accept Jason Pellettieri as an alternate member on the Heritage Commission.

Debbie Kaiser seconded, all approved, and the motion passed.

It was noted that clarification is needed regarding the two community at-large members of the Demolition Committee who are considered alternates.

Peggy will forward the handbook to Jason.

Other Business

Tina will contact the Estes family to let them know that the Heritage Commission remains interested in procuring two of Dick Estes's photos for permanent display in the Town House and that there is no hard deadline for receiving the photos.

Treasurer's Report

As Peggy Van Van Valkenburgh was absent, this report has been postponed until a future meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Stephenson, Secretary, Peterborough Heritage Commission

The next meeting of the Peterborough Heritage Commission is
Thursday, January 10, 2019, 6:00 p.m.