

Peterborough Heritage Commission
Approved Minutes
April 13, 2017

Present: Bruce Batten; Richard Estes; Debbie Kaiser; Mose Olenik; Peggy Shaughnessy; Melissa Stephenson; Doug Ward; Tyler Ward, Select board liaison

Absent: Sheila Kirkpatrick, Alternate

1. Approval of March 2017 Minutes

Debbie moved to approve the March 2017 minutes as corrected. Peggy seconded. All approved.

Peggy will draft the February 2017 minutes.

3. Update on #44 and #46 Concord Street

Debby updated the commissioners on the viewing meeting with members of the Demolition Committee, the Episcopal church and the Heritage Commission.

The property is still one lot until the church fulfills planning board subdivision requirements (all demolishment, cement, parking for #44 provisions etc.).

Bids for the demolition of # 46 are being received and, once selected, the church will start prior to the town planning board meets about what they're going to do on the property. It was noted that the procedural process has been somewhat out of order.

Debby noted that one week's notice for the Demolition Committee to review requests on *any* given property and to schedule a site review, is unrealistic. The Heritage Commission's Demolition Committee needs a reasonable time to review and report on all project requests.

Tyler suggested work on the demolition policy itself is needed and the application fees could become a potential source of revenue for the town.

The merits of a square footage fee for demolition were discussed. The \$50 submission fee does not make much of an impression on developer budgets as it might on an individual's.

Doug noted that there could be a provision for requesting a fee waiver under special circumstances.

It was generally agreed that the Heritage Commission will address this at a future meeting.

The commission reviewed members of Demolition Committee. PHC Alternate Sheila Kirkpatrick is at the ready with historical background, and clear on the vision for the town on master plan for any future requests.

The text for part two of the master plan can be found online.

3. Photography Contest Update

MOTION: Peggy moved to approve \$100 for the photography award and up to and additional \$100 for expenses for the upcoming photography contest and exhibit.

Debby seconded the motion, all approved and the motion passed.

Bruce Batten brought up the topic of expenses for PHC's other obligations, including membership in the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, and The Monadnock Center for History and Culture. The PHC has also committed up to \$200 for an upcoming Eagle Scout project. It was noted the Commission can borrow money from the next year's budget.

Reception for the photography show is scheduled for first Friday, May 5th. Bruce and Peggy will work out details of the outside easel, etc. Members are encouraged to bring light hors d'oeuvres as in the past.

4. GAR Hall Update

The closing on the GAR property has been changed to the 26th of April.

Peggy noted Rodney mentioned that the entire section 15 of the proposed preservation easement had been deleted.

Peggy will talk to the Town Administrator about this — keeping in mind that the NHPA may not accept the easement with these updated changes. If this were to be the case, the town would then hold the easement on the property.

Again, the commissioners voiced concerns that they were not included in the decision to delete an entire section of the easement on which so much time and effort has been spent by both the Heritage Commission and the NH Preservation Alliance.

Again, it was noted a continuing need for thorough and timely communication between boards and committees through thoughtful and respectful town processes management.

A brief discussion of fundraising events to cover the costs of the easement monitoring fees for monitoring followed. Dublin Attorney John Sistare requested that he be apprised of the financial needs for this project as he has clients who would be willing to help with the cost of stewardship if there is ever a need.

Tyler passed around a framed postcard of an old photo of the GAR Hall for commissioners to sign and will present it at the closing in Bedford at the title company on April 26th.

5. Letter to the editor in support of Tyler Ward

The commission agreed that heritage commissioners can write letters in support of Tyler's candidacy write as individuals but that it would not be ethical to endorse him as a commission. It was unanimously agreed that Tyler is the candidate of choice.

A submission schedule of letters in support of Tyler's second term as Select Board Member was outlined.

As there was no other new or old business, the meeting adjourned 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Stephenson, Peterborough Heritage Commission

The next meeting of the PHC is Thursday, May, 11, 2017, at 5:30 p.m.
Peterborough Town Hall