

Peterborough Heritage Commission
Thursday, October 10, 2019
MINUTES

Present: Jason Pellettieri, Peggy Shaughnessy, Doug Ward, Peggy Van Valkenburgh, Tina Rapp, Karen Kambol, Tyler Ward, *Select Board liaison*

Absent: Deborah Kaiser

Peggy Shaughnessy opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

59 Union Street

Discussion:

- The property is in a state of ill repair.
- Current plans are to build a three-unit housing building.
- The original plan was for a 4-unit building but concerns were expressed by abutters, drainage issues were discovered, and there were other building-related issues.
- The Demolition Committee met last week.
- Heritage Commission would like to be involved in a walk-through for two reasons: 1. to evaluate the property and 2. to be more familiar with the walk-through process.
- Would like for there to be a public hearing about plans for the property.

Actions:

- Peggy Shaughnessy will submit minutes from last week's Demolition Committee meeting.
- Heritage Commission will tour the home next week. No date yet until we talk with Matt Waitkins
- Doug will connect with Matt for his availability for walk-through and public hearing.

McGreal House

1. Local art collections/Sharon Arts Center

Discussion:

- Nora Unwin is a local illustrator whose art collection was with the Sharon Arts Center when it closed.
- Art collections that were housed in the Sharon Arts Center when it closed went to New Hampshire Art Institute (NHIA) in Manchester.
- The college (NHIA merged with New England College) is not sure what they plan to do with artwork collections from Sharon Arts Center.

Ideas:

- Perhaps someone could request that NHIA donate Nora's artwork collection (possibly

- others) to the town of Peterborough.
 - Could these art collections be displayed at the McGreal house?
 - Perhaps we could write a letter to the college saying we know the artwork is there, it has value and we would like for it to stay in Peterborough.
2. Follow up from September HC meeting with A.J, Susan and Ben Wilson on future of McGreal House

Discussion:

- Peggy Shaughnessy sent a letter on 9/15/19 to A.J. Dupere, Susan Francher and Ben Wilson summarizing the September meeting discussion and requesting follow up on action plans. Peggy has not heard back.
- HC has an interest in obtaining a copy of the Fund for the Shieling Trust.
- Martha Yates (Elizabeth Yates' niece) would also like a copy of the document.

Ideas:

- Perhaps someone could ask Judge Runyon to request the Fund documents.
- Martha McGreal has expressed a desire to have the house used as a museum of natural remedies. Elizabeth McGreal kept an extensive herb garden that she used for natural remedies, including for her husband who lost his vision while living in the home.

Actions:

- Peggy will send a follow up letter asking what work is planned for Fall 2019 along with a reminder that we would like to inform the public of plans for the McGreal house.
- HC agreed to start a running list of ideas for the house that we can send the commissioner as s/he will ultimately decide on future plans for the house.

Woodman's Property/Development

Discussion:

- At last week's Planning Board meeting the developer presented changes to plans for the property. These changes were made after the July Planning Board meeting. Changes were made as a result of recent input from the State of NH. The changes have an impact on lot sizes.
- Abutters expressed concern at the Planning Board meeting about not yet having a voice.
- A public hearing is scheduled for October 14 at 6:30pm
- Peggy read the HC mission statement and an excerpt from the Master Plan that state it is within the charge of the Heritage Commission to review development proposals.

Actions:

- HC will write a letter to the Planning Board expressing concerns about the most recent changes to plans for development and will present concerns at the 10/14/19 public

hearing.

- A committee consisting of Jason, Peggy and Doug will meet to draft a letter.
- The Heritage Commission will plan to meet on Saturday, October 12 at 4pm (assuming timely posting of the meeting) and again on October 14 at 5:30pm (same assumption) for final discussion about the letter.

Approval of September HC Minutes

Peggy VanValkenburg made a motion to approve the September 2019 Heritage Commission minutes. Doug seconded.

Move to adjourn at 7:29pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Karen M. Kambol