

Peterborough Heritage Commission
Approved _ Minutes _ September 13, 2018

Present: Debby Kaiser; Tina Rapp; Peggy Shaughnessy; Melissa Stephenson; Doug Ward; Tyler Ward, Select board *liaison*

Also Present: Martha Yates, Peggy Van Valkenburgh

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

Welcome Guests

- Peggy Van Valkenburgh, a newly retired SMS teacher, science education consultant, and a prospective new commissioner, and Martha Yates, niece of William and Elizabeth MacGreal, introduced themselves as did all commissioners present.

Pop-Up Museum

- The Peterborough Heritage Commission and the Monadnock Center for History and Culture have collaborated to create the Peterborough Pop Up Museum with vintage photographs placed in historic locations through out town from August through October.
- Approximately twenty people met for the September walk.

Veterans' Day Celebration

- The Heritage Commission and The Monadnock Center will host 300 - 400 expected people at Peterborough's Veterans Day celebration on Nov 11th.
- The Heritage Commission will provide refreshments.

Elizabeth Yates Property, Old Street Road

Shieling Forest Property

- Tina Rapp reviewed the communication history of concerned neighbors with the town regarding the condition of the house on this property.
- Discussion followed regarding how to acquire a copy of the trust; contacting the trustees, nomination of the property as one of the NH Preservation Alliance's Seven to Save (<https://nhpreservation.org/seven-to-save>) to bring attention and resources to this threatened and endangered historic property; placing the house on the historic register; etc.

- "Tina will contact Susan Francher at NH Division of Forests and Lands to arrange for a walkthrough of the Yates house in October, preferably around 4:00. She will also contact the NH Preservation Alliance to discuss ways to support the work required on the Yates house, including "Seven to Save."
- It was noted that the September 10, 2018 deadline for nominations has passed.
- Melissa will contact Dick Ober, President and CEO of the NHCharitable Foundation, to see if they have any specific information regarding the trust and the trustees.
- Martha Yates gave some history of the house and its 30 acres, the endowment as she understands it, and the provisions provided, including the sale of the Nora Unwin house next door should funds be needed for preservation of the main piece of property.
- Yates described the house in some detail, suggesting the commissioners arrange to be allowed inside sometime to see it. She mentioned several historic details including the stenciling along the top of the bedroom that was the basis of Elizabeth's book *Patterns on the Wall*. The State allowed tenants in the building to paint over these.
- Ms. Yates was curious why there isn't money in the trust to go towards repairing the house. She will contact Cindy Barlow, Department of Administration, at Boston University to see if there is a copy of the trust available.
- She also mentioned Assistant Commissioner of the NH State Department of Administrative Services, Joseph Bouchard, as someone who may be helpful in this matter.

Proposed Demolition

- Tyler reported that the Planning Board had a preliminary discussion Monday night with the new owners of Woodman's Florist and large house just north of it on Concord Street.
- Plans are to demolish all of the buildings on the property and build a private road with an entrance and exit off of Concord Street. Twenty to twenty-four free-standing single family units of 900 - 1100 square feet and two duplexes are

proposed on lots of 5000 square feet. This falls within the neighborhood overlay zone and would allow for density.

- He suggested that the Heritage Commission send a member to all future meetings of the Planning Board.
- A demolition of the “painted lady” at Prospect Street and Union Street is also proposed with a plan for four houses on the lot. Contractors are returning to the Planning Board Monday, September 17th to discuss further plans including retaining walls, sewer lines, drainage, etc.. Concerned abutters have hired an engineer to review this proposal.
- It was noted that the original house still looks reasonably good but that all the additions are collapsing.
- Discussion about dismantling and salvaging parts from this building as much as possible ensued.

Peggy S. left the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Heritage Commission Membership

MOTION:

Debbie Kaiser moved *to approve Peggy Van Valkenburgh as the newest member of the Heritage Commission.*

Doug Ward seconded and all approved.

- Peggy Shaugnessey will send notice to the Select Board and Rodney Bartlett for the Select Board agenda for Peggy Van’s official appointment.

New Business

- The commissioners briefly reviewed the demolition protocol with Building Inspector Tim Herlihy.
- It was agreed that Tim should contact Doug Ward as the initial liaison and Doug will bring notification of permit applications and concerns to members of the Demolition Committee, prior to replying to Mr. Herlihy.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Stephenson, *Secretary, PHC*

The next meeting of the PHC is Thursday, October 11th, 2018 6:00 p.m.