

**TOWN OF NEW HAMPTON
HERITAGE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Upstairs meeting room, Town Office, 6 Pinnacle Hill Road
NEW HAMPTON, NH 03256

October 19, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT

Regular Members: Mr. Denoncour, Mr. Harvey, Mr. Katz

OTHERS PRESENT

None

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Katz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

There were no previous minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

DISCUSSION

Review of RSA 674:44

RSA 674:44 was reviewed as a baseline/guardrail for the commission. The commission is an advisory and review authority. It was noted that 674:44-b (b) which applies to historical districts and to originating regulations and ordinances does not apply.

*Coordination with Other
Organizations/ Master Plan
Input*

The commission assists the planning board as requested in applicable sections of the master plan. Master plan chapter 4 deals with historical resources in the town. Mr. Katz felt this is worth reviewing and then offering updates or comments to the Master Plan subcommittee of the Planning Board.

Mr. Harvey asked if there a list of historical buildings/districts/roads/lands in the town. Mr. Katz was not certain but stated that in the Master Plan an inventory of 22 buildings is listed.

Mr. Denoncour believes there is a specific inventory maintained by the historical society and stated he will be responsible to check for an inventory.

Mr. Katz will circulate Chapter 4 of the Master Plan to see if there is anything that should be discussed and addressed.

Mr. Harvey asked for clarification whether there is a list of RSAs that apply to the function of the commission. Mr. Katz stated that RSA 674:44-a is the only one that specifically addresses historical commissions. The overall title addresses land use regulations. The town has no applicable ordinances – the Heritage Commission is able to offer advice to the selectboard on properties that are on the inventory.

Mr. Denoncour asked if the Lakes Region Planning Commission has a historic element. Mr. Katz is also the commissioner of that commission and said that hasn't been an area of priority. He does have contacts on the board that may be resources of external advice.

The Heritage Commission has power to publicize its activities. Mr. Katz stated that this is important as grant applications require an answer as to how much effort has been put into community engagement. There was discussion of Bob Smith's presentation of the history of the New Hampton Town House and agreement to provide notes to Mae Williams.

Gifts of money and property may be received to be managed and controlled by the commission (similar to the Conservation Commission process). The select board needs to approve taking the property but expenditures would not need board approval. Mr. Katz suggested opening an account and officially establishing a 'Heritage Fund'.

Mr. Harvey asked if the commission needs bylaws. Mr. Katz will check with Chair Shana Martinez to see if the Conservation Commission has a charter document. It was noted that normal town processes and checks and balances would be followed. The funds wouldn't be a capital reserve or public trust and doesn't require warrant article.

*Meeting Schedule/
Grants*

Future meetings were discussed. Informational meetings via zoom can be held but no votes, decisions, expenditures can be made without a quorum and a location. Mr. Katz stated in April we can begin to apply for grants. Moose Plate grant application process and LCHIP cycle begin in April. Moose plate award is made in June and is a good grant to start with. Mr. Harvey said redirecting water from the Town House by regrading is important and could be the intent of the grant.

Mr. Denoncour inquired about LCHIP – are the funds received from LCHIP loans? Mr. Katz stated they are 50/50 matches and the town needs to provide 50% of the funds.

Next meeting date was set for Wednesday, December 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Discussion about establishing priorities. It was agreed that full attention needs to be paid to the Town House at this time, recognizing that other items may come up and there is the capability of doing more than one thing at a time. Gifts of properties would need to be assessed to evaluate if accepting the gift should be accepted (statement of condition).

*Historic Inventory/ State
Registry*

Mr. Harvey asked "What is our definition of historic building?" It was noted that there are both federal and state registries. Mr. Katz said the National Parks Service has a definition of what a historic asset would be.

There was discussion of renovation vs. restoration vs. preservation. Historical significance might require preservation as opposed to restoration. It was stated that the Town House was never on the state list of historical buildings but there is an application pending approval from DHR at this time. This will be important to have in place for grant applications.

Membership

Membership was discussed. The current group feels they can take on the challenge but if someone else is interested in joining, that would be fine. Mr. Katz stated that having an alternate is an advantage if someone is sick or unable to attend so that a quorum exists.

Action Items

Mr. Denoncour to work on Historic inventory.

Mr. Katz to provide Master plan chapter 4.

Mr. Katz to check with Mrs. Martinez to see if Conservation Commission has bylaws.

Mr. Harvey to discuss with Selectmen, roles and responsibilities of the Conservation Commission and if the Heritage Commission will mirror that process.

There was further discussion about the need for town matching funds for grants. Mr. Harvey will address with the select board a warrant article to rename the Capital Reserve Conservation Fund to 'Heritage Fund'. Management of fund to be consistent with 674:44-b (h).

Mr. Katz stated his colleague is the chair of the Moultonborough Heritage Commission and he would like to invite her to participate in a zoom meeting to give input on how to run and manage a Heritage Commission. Other members agreed.

ADJORNMENT

Mr. Denoncour made a motion; seconded by Mr. Harvey to adjourn at 8:10 pm. Vote passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Tamara Van Lenten