

City of Keene
New Hampshire

HERITAGE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 14, 2015 4:00 PM Keene Public Library, Trustees Room

Members Present:

Louise Zerba, Chair
Ardis Osborn, Alternate
Terry Clark, Councilor
Susan D'Egidio
Katherine Snow, Vice-Chair
Rose Carey, Alternate (Late)

Staff Present:

Karen Purinton, Planner

Others Present:

Members Not Present:

George Foskett
John Bemis

1) Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Zerba called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. Roll call was conducted. Chair Zerba introduced Kevin Dremel, Director of the Keene Music Festival.

2) Approval of Minutes – December 10, 2014

Ms. Snow made a motion to approve the minutes of December 10, 2014 and November 12, 2014 as submitted. Ms. D'Egidio seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

3) Report of the Demolition Commission – Susan D'Egidio

Ms. D'Egidio reported and Councilor Clark visited the site at 183 Arch Street and approved the Demolition Permit requested for the demolition of the shed only.

4) Report of the Community Outreach Commission – Nothing to report at this time.

5) Report of the Research Commission –

a. South Main Street Historic District Update – Chair Zerba reported the Commission is still working on establishing the regulations.

b. Informational Packet – See agenda item d. Website Update.

c. Historical Plaques – Nothing to report at this time.

d. Website Update- In response to Chair Zerba, Ms. D'Egidio indicated the sub-Commission was focusing on the information being posted on the website for now (instead of printed copies). The information will be posted on the Heritage Commission page and on the Preserving Our Heritage page. Ms. Carey reported the information is ready to go, and that Ms. Purinton has it all. Ms. Carey is still working on obtaining some of the dates when houses were built. She reported only one house has been added to the previous list. Ms. Carey clarified for Councilor Clark that the information is in place that includes alternatives and resources for those coming to request Demolition Permits (beyond carriage barns).

Ms. Carey addressed her article on carriage barns indicating she will be writing articles to help keep the page more active. She indicated she could interview the owners of the featured homes; and reported she has not yet contacted the Sentinel. Although the carriage barn updates is not online yet; Ms. Carey noted the infrastructure is in place. Ms. Carey reported she found many carriage barns on both Court Street and Washington Street. Discussion continued with Chair Zerba recommending the carriage barns be a component of the global scope. Ms. Carey also reported she will be meeting with Jeananne Farrar in the future to discuss her ideas. Chair Zerba recommended Commission members read all the materials intended for the website for discussion at the next meeting. Ms. Purinton will email the links to all the information to Commission members; including the grids of the houses and carriage barns. Discussion continued, and Ms. Purinton indicated that staff would be responsible for updating the website on behalf of the Commission. In response to Chair Zerba, Ms. Purinton noted there is a list of potential grants available on the website. Ms. Purinton also noted she welcomes new articles/ideas which can be added to the website.

Regarding writing articles, Ms. Carey indicated she had read the research suggested by Chair Zerba. She also noted the research articles are available at the Historical Society, but not easily accessible. Ms. Carey asked the Commission for guidance on the articles to be written. Chair Zerba recommended this be discussed at the next meeting. Ms. Carey reiterated her earlier comments about interviewing the home owner; asking them to share their experiences (human interest side- what it's like to restore a property). Instead of monthly articles, Ms. Purinton suggested the articles be written on a quarterly basis. Ms. Snow suggested updating the articles written by Phil Faulkner. Ms. Carey asked if anyone else would like to help write the articles. Ms. Carey will contact the Sentinel to ascertain their interest in her idea. Chair Zerba thanked Ms. Carey for her work in this endeavor.

6) Staff Reports –

1. Ms. Purinton reported the Historic District Commission will not meet month as they have no applications coming before them.

7) New or Other Business –

a. Elections, Chair, Vice-Chair for 2015 –

Ms. Snow nominated Louise Zerba to continue as Chair for the Commission. Ms. D'Egidio seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Ms. Zerba accepted the position.

Councilor Clark nominated Katherine Snow as Vice-Chair for the Commission. Chair Zerba seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Ms. Snow accepted the position.

A discussion was held regarding the current membership compliment; Chair Zerba suggested the names of nominees be sent to her or the Mayor. Ms. D'Egidio will talk with Jeananne Farrar tomorrow to see if she is interested in becoming an Alternate member. Chair Zerba indicated there should be a representative from the HDC on this Commission as well.

b. 2015 Meeting Schedule –

Commission members agreed to continue with the every other month meeting schedule. Ms. Purinton will send out the schedule (adopted at the November 2014 meeting).

c. Discussion: Establishing 2015 Goals –

Chair Zerba reported the Mayor has asked all Commission Chairs to give a report to the PLD Committee on what their Commissions/Committees are doing. Chair Zerba would like the Commission members to attend so that she can introduce them. After discussion the Commission developed the following goals:

- Get the Main Street Historic District draft Ordinance to City Council for adoption.
- Establish an educational program to increase public awareness on (preserving) historic resources in Keene.
- Complete the work on the website informational packets for potential developers and restorers.

Discussion ensued with regards to the use of Facebook pages. Ms. Purinton reported the Commission could post information on the Planning Department page.

d. Report to PLD January 21, 2015, at 7 PM – Discussed under item c. Discussion.

Item e. was added to the agenda.

e. Mr. Dremel noted that he was invited by Ms. Carey to address the Commission. He noted the group has been doing a series of benefit shows at the Summer Knight Chapel for the past five years. Mr. Dremel discussed with Ms. Carey the idea of expanding this series into other historic spaces in the community. These would be called House Concerts; people open their homes to hold a concert, and someone there will discuss the significance of the space; the musicians are paid by passing-the-hat. Mr. Dremel presented his second idea; having a videographer do a 15-minute segment with music on special spaces in Keene. He noted he needs help finding these spaces. Mr. Dremel noted the groups mandate is to create more opportunities for live music in the community, and he has a passion for historic places. Mr. Dremel suggested this would be a good project to collaborate on. Ms. Carey suggested the videos could be shared on the website and Cheshire TV.

Continuing, Mr. Dremel noted the group puts on shows that benefit other organizations; and they will continue the benefits for the Chapel as well (\$25,000 is needed for the renovations to the Chapel). Ms. Carey offered to host a benefit in her home, noting others have also offered to host a benefit in their buildings. Ms. Carey also noted she would like to utilize buildings/homes that have not already been featured.

Chair Zerba indicated this would fit within the Commission's educational component. Ms. Purinton agreed, and suggested Heberton Hall as a site to utilize. Ms. Carey and Ms. D'Egidio agreed to work with Mr. Dremel on this project, and present their plan at the next meeting. Ms. Purinton also offered her assistance.

**8) Adjournment – Chair Zerba adjourned the meeting at 4:55 PM.
The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 11, 2015**

Respectfully submitted by,
Mary Lou Sheats-Hall, Minute-taker
January 18, 2015

With additional edits by,

Karen Purinton, Staff Liaison