



## **Heritage Commission**

**Wednesday, November 9, 2022, 4:30 PM**

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, City Hall  
3 Washington St, Keene, NH 03431

### **AGENDA**

- I. **Call to Order – Roll Call**
- II. **Minutes of Previous Meetings –**  
October 12, 2022
- III. **CLG Annual Report**
- IV. **2022 CLG Grant Update**
- V. **2021 CLG Neighborhood Heritage Project Update**
- VI. **More Time**  
Heritage Website Updates
- VII. **Next Meeting – December 14, 2022**
- VIII. **Adjourn**

1 City of Keene  
2 New Hampshire

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5 HERITAGE COMMISSION  
6 MEETING MINUTES  
7

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

4:30 PM

IMS Training Room,  
City Hall

**Members Present:**

Cauley Powell, Chair  
Susan DeGidio, Vice Chair  
Councilor Gladys Johnsen  
Rose Carey  
Brian Lee  
Molly Ellis

**Staff Present:**

Jesse Rounds, Community Development  
Director

**Members Not Present:**

Marilyn Huston  
Louise Zerba, Alternate

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9  
10 **1) Call to Order – Roll Call**

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12 Chair Powell called the meeting to order at 4:37 PM and roll call ensued.

13  
14 **2) Minutes of the Previous Meeting – June 8 and September 14, 2022**

15  
16 A motion by Chair Powell to adopt the June 8, 2022 minutes was duly seconded by Ms. Carey  
17 and the motion carried unanimously.

18  
19 A motion by Mr. Lee to adopt the September 12, 2022 minutes was duly seconded by Councilor  
20 Johnsen and the motion carried unanimously.

21  
22 **3) Demolition Review Permits**

23  
24 Ms. DeGidio provided an update on the three locations she signed-off on since April. She noted  
25 that on April 28, the first 686 Court Street location came up again this year after being reviewed  
26 last year; this is the 1930s house that sits close to Court Street and the vet clinic. She said this  
27 was not a spectacular site and she signed-off on it.  
28

29 On April 29, she reviewed 122 and 124 Water Street, which was a garage, shed, and office all  
30 circa 1920 that was being taken over by the Hundred Nights Shelter, which she supported. So,  
31 she signed-off.

32

33 On July 24, at 427 N. Washington Street was just a 1910 garage. She looked at photos and drove  
34 past. She said it was not that impressive and looked better in the photos, so she signed-off. Thus,  
35 she signed-off on all three because they were in poor condition.

36

37 She explained that these potential demolitions must be reviewed by the HC if over 500 square  
38 feet or over 50 years old. Ms. DeGidio gave an overview for Ms. Ellis of what they were looking  
39 to not demolish. If it is a very early pre-1900s structure, they want to preserve it, especially if it  
40 has outstanding features. They had lost a few great structures from the late 1700s and 1800s, and  
41 a lot of the time it is because people are not willing to invest the necessary expense for repair. A  
42 lot depends on the structure's age and location, and whether it contains anything historically  
43 significant. A big thing for Ms. DeGidio was the historic fire downtown; she spoke with Mike  
44 Pappas, who was going to save all the bricks not destroyed in the fire and use them to rebuild,  
45 which pleased her. The Commission tries to save anything they can from demolition.

46

47 Councilor Johnsen asked how long the demolition review had occurred. Ms. DeGidio said at  
48 least as long as she had been on the Commission. She said the property owners do not have to  
49 listen to the Commission, but the Commission provides its opinion. The best they can do is delay  
50 the demolition 30 days to find ways with the homeowner to prevent the demolition. Chair Powell  
51 said it was a successful effort. Ms. DeGidio cited the example of the corn crib from 1797 that  
52 was transferred to Stonewall Farms, which cost the homeowners approximately \$20,000.

53

54 **4) 2022 CLG Grant Update**

55

56 Mr. Rounds said that Mr. Schoefmann had reach out to Division of Historic Resources (DHR) to  
57 let them know that the Commission would be bringing the grant to the City Council, with a  
58 subsequent signature from the City Manager, which follows the normal City process. Chair  
59 Powell said that the consultant from Northeastern University sent a note confirming that the  
60 adjusted timeline is better for her and the students, who are interested and eager to explore black  
61 history in Keene.

62

63 **5) 2021 CLG Neighborhood Heritage Project Update**

64

65 At a future meeting and on the Community Development Department Facebook, Mr.  
66 Schoefmann would share the heritage website and application form. He would also schedule a  
67 follow-up to meet with Jim Sterling to collect his stories.

68

69 **6) Heritage Website Update**

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71 Mr. Lee had no update.

72

73     **7)     Next Meeting – November 9, 2022**  
74

75     Chair Powell shared an update that the presentation at the Historical Society would be  
76     Wednesday, December 14 and discussion ensued about the time. The Commission decided on  
77     7:00 PM. The Chair noted that she had been playing phone tag with Bob Mallet—she recalled  
78     from the last meeting that he was going to help the Commission facilitate a conversation with the  
79     Italian Society Board. They are still discussing dates in October or early November. She thinks  
80     that meeting would be the real advertised event and Mr. Schoefmann would be working on a  
81     public outreach push through other City avenues. She thought the Italian Society might be where  
82     the Commission connects a lot more with people directly who have more stake in the project.  
83     She hoped for this sooner than later and would share the meeting times via Mr. Rounds.

84     Chair Powell recalled that they talked about outreach previously with the Historical Society to  
85     commence historical background research. She might reach out to Ms. Huston about this effort  
86     seeking digitized photos with captions to incorporate into the app.

87     Chair Powell said the other Commission focus is outreach to the very community-focused  
88     Catholic church in Keene to see if they might have their own records to inform this project. She  
89     had no direct connections to the church and asked for someone to liaise. Mr. Lee offered to  
90     liaise.

91     Chair Powell continued discussing promotion of the Italian neighborhood project and the app.  
92     She would like this on the agenda beginning in November, by which time they will have  
93     received the stories in the app and can start discussing the story maps. Chair Powell said that Mr.  
94     Schoefmann would handle the social media aspects, but the Commission also talked about an  
95     article. They would try to engage a local non-profit first and if no one agreed, the Commission  
96     could pay for an article. They also discussed advertising with the Historical Society’s historical  
97     preservation newsletter—with focus across the State—because that is the presentation location.  
98     Chair Powell asked for other ideas to promote the event and not the application tool, and if  
99     anyone was interested in drafting materials. Mr. Lee suggested an article with a few paragraphs  
100     explaining the project and Chair Powell added that they could interview a community member  
101     who tells a story. This would be a text article, not a video. However, if Mr. Lee could offer a  
102     video, it would fit well with the project. Mr. Lee thought a video would be easier to share but  
103     that an article might be easier in this instance.

104     Chair Powell thought a graphic might be nice to have for the event and Mr. Lee agreed to work  
105     on something that explains the main purpose to promote the app and the event, where the  
106     Commission would share everything learned. Ms. Carey thought a graphic poster at City Hall, in  
107     Main Street windows, at the Library, and more would be effective. Ms. Carey also suggested  
108     using the graphic as an advertisement that plays before movies at the Colonial, which had been  
109     successful in the past, with a captive audience. Mr. Lee would develop the aesthetic for the  
110     graphic based on the Italian flag colors, details about the Italian heritage project, an inset with  
111     photos of the neighborhood, and information about the meeting date, time, and a short  
112     description. He would complete this task before the next meeting. Ms. Carey suggested a historic  
113     photo. Discussion ensued about ideas for the graphic. The graphic would be shared and there

114 could be a sentinel article on the piece. They could pay for an ad. Ms. Carey said the Monadnock  
115 Shopper News distribution is impressive, but they would not do a graphic or list events;  
116 discussion ensued about the Shopper's reach and positive history for Heritage efforts.  
117 Advertising could ensue at minimal price. Chair Powell said the Italian Society is active in that  
118 they exist, but it was unclear how they participate in the wider community. Discussion ensued  
119 about whether they wanted to spend money on this effort. Ms. Powell noted for Ms. Ellis that  
120 there is a Commission budget that could be used but it was easier to make a flat number that they  
121 would spend. She said there was every reason to think spending that money would be equally  
122 effective.

123  
124 Ms. Carey suggested radio as another free promotional tool, especially for older listeners. This  
125 could include someone older giving their story. The Commission agreed this would be a good  
126 avenue. Chair Powell said that might be a good avenue for someone participating in the project  
127 to relay their story and other listeners might want to submit a better story. John DiBernardo used  
128 to have his own radio show and would be a natural if he was inclined.

129  
130 Chair Powell said she felt well about these deliverables. She was still nervous about getting  
131 people to participate, though all signs pointed to it being effective. She was meeting with Mr.  
132 Dentino this weekend who seemed to be the grandfather of the neighborhood and that should be  
133 a productive recorded conversation.

134  
135 Ms. Carey asked what happened to the party. Chair Powell said that after speaking with Bob  
136 Mallet, the feeling was that a party would not be as necessary and that presenting to the Italian  
137 Society about the effort would be more effective. She was not completely clear on how to reach  
138 the Italian Society's membership at large, but she thought they had a mailing list.

139  
140 Ms. Carey asked about presentation materials for the Historical Society event. Chair Powell said  
141 she needed to confirm the date with Mr. Schoefmann. Part of the idea is to use the story map as  
142 the structure of the presentation. They can decide if one or many of them will speak to put a  
143 friendly face to the Commission. Ms. Carey said that the graphic could be a poster displayed in  
144 the Historical Society lobby.

145  
146 Ms. Carey discussed taking on the effort to find old photos at the historical society and match  
147 them with current photos she could try to take, regardless of the season. Mr. Rounds was unsure  
148 whether she could still borrow a camera from the Community Development Department but  
149 would ask. Once Ms. Carey has the photos, she will forward them to Mr. Lee. The historical  
150 society does digitize their photos so that should be helpful. Chair Powell hoped that soon there  
151 would be a digital location for sharing those things between the Commission and Mr. Rounds  
152 said the Community Development Department has a large color scanner for use.

153  
154 For Ms. Ellis' benefit, Chair Cauley read from the Committee webpage to describe the project:  
155 [www.comdvlpt.wixsite.com/keeneheritage](http://www.comdvlpt.wixsite.com/keeneheritage). Mr. Rounds would forward the website description  
156 to all members. They hope many people will share their stories on the website. Part of the project  
157 grant received was to develop an application as a crowdsourcing history tool, and the  
158 Commission is trying to prove it can do that successfully by connecting to the community so  
159 they can share their stories. Often the information is easy to gather and reflects basic

160 experiences. Mr. Lee said the story map or uploading a story takes one to the application where  
161 you can tour the story map. The story map begins with a story and tries to capture the key  
162 community members to use it as a foundational living memory of the neighborhood. Mr. Lee  
163 will be recording interviews with community members and despite that being a time investment,  
164 they hoped most participants would have family photos to upload with the story.

165  
166 Ms. Ellis asked about the presentation. Chair Powell said that on the surface level the  
167 presentation is to fulfill the grant by sharing the story to demonstrate how the story map and  
168 crowd sourcing worked. Chair Powell demonstrated how the app would take one through the story  
169 map. At the presentation, the Commission will walk people through the story map and talk about  
170 the process, why this process was chosen, whether they feel they met the objective of the project,  
171 and whether the next step could be taken to another neighborhood or Keene in general.

172  
173 The Historical Society is in the final days of an exhibit on immigration in NH and part of their  
174 interest is how this project speaks to that. Ms. Carey said all information for the presentation and  
175 story map was available in photo subtitles at the Historical Society—from who lived there, the  
176 dates, etc. This information gives a sense of the community at the time and adds to the story.  
177 Chair Powell understood that the neighborhood land was granted in 1910s and homes were built  
178 on key streets; that is a lifetime someone could have lived there and that is something to capture  
179 in this project. It will be nice to trace family history as public knowledge. Ms. Carey will do the  
180 work at the Historical Society and track to see if any of the families still live at these residences  
181 to share as process notes on gathering the histories of the houses. Ms. Carey would gather data  
182 for the family histories presentation.

183  
184 Chair Powell was inspired, excited, and saw no red flags. As a new resident of Keene, Mr.  
185 Rounds thought this was a cool idea and he liked the idea of a graphic to get the word out.

186  
187 **8) Adjournment**

188  
189 There being no further business, Chair Powell adjourned the meeting at 5:25 PM.

190  
191 Respectfully submitted by,  
192 Katryna Kibler, Minute Taker  
193 October 18, 2022

194  
195 Reviewed and edited by,  
196 Will Schoefmann, GIS Technician