

HERITAGE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2018

The Heritage Commission held its regular monthly meeting at City Hall, 41 Green Street, Concord, New Hampshire, on Thursday, October 4, 2018 at 4:43 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Seating of Alternates

Chairman Jaques called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Present at the meeting were Chair Richard Jaques, Councilor Allan Herschlag, Members Rich Woodfin, Robert Johnson II and Carol Durgy Brooks. Staff present included City Planner Heather Shank, and Administrative Specialist Lisa Fellows-Weaver.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Johnson moved to approve the August 2, 2018 minutes, as written. Mr. Woodfin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. New Business

Presentation by Nadine Miller from Department of Historical Resources (DHR)

Nadine Miller, of the NH Department of Historical Resources (DHR) met with the Commission to provide an overview of what DHR does and what DHR can assist the Commission with. She stated that DHR is required to meet with the Certified Local Government community every four years. This meeting was held with staff a few months ago and it was suggested that she come in and provide an overview of what DHR does and what can be offered to the Commission.

Ms. Miller stated that she is aware that the Commission is in the process of updating the process and procedures for demolition. She asked what the reasons are for the revisions. She also stated that she often refers people to the City's Demolition Delay Ordinance.

Mr. Johnson stated that the revision of Demolition Delay Ordinance has been on the agenda for a while now. He provided some background of the timeframe of the revision process. He stated that there has been a strong economic development group that opposes any delay in development; this is a difficult item for the Demolition Review Committee (DRC). He stated that the process has actually resulted in several members considering resigning as no changes can get past City Hall.

Mr. Johnson explained that one change being proposed is the extension of the delay period. Members feel that there is an overall need for more than 49 days between when a demolition application is filed and when it is required to be signed off on. He stated that the process includes the DRC members meeting with the applicant and/or owner. The time frame makes it very difficult to meet with the applicant/owner.

A brief discussion was held noting buildings that have been demolished.

Mr. Woodfin stated that he and Councilor Herschlag have been meeting to discuss options and ideas and present solutions to the DRC. Councilor Herschlag stated that there are some changes occurring now with economic development so there may be some support now.

Councilor Herschlag stated that it is not all about the delay. He does not feel that there is enough time for noticing, there needs to be a reasonable amount of time for proper notification to allow input and ample time to assess the building.

Ms. Miller suggested talking to the City of Keene and City of Exeter for other examples of demolition policies.

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Additional discussion was held regarding resources for people that want to preserve a building. Ms. Miller stated that there is the 79-D program for preserving barns, and people should contact the Preservation Alliance for assistance.

Ms. Shank stated that the time line outlined in the ordinance is very confusing. She has attempted to revise the ordinance to clarify the schedule of deadlines and tasks.

Ms. Miller stated that DHR is able to assist the Commission by offering grant opportunities and assistance. She explained that DHR can assist with having an expert in a specific topic work with the Commission as well. She added that she would suggest a training opportunity that is open to other historic districts/commissions. This would facilitate discussions with other groups as Mr. Johnson requested earlier. The idea was positively received. Mr. Johnson suggested a Saturday training session with DHS.

Councilor Herschlag stated that Concord began engaged in re-branding a few years ago. He noted that part of that conversation involved reviewing areas for preservation and areas to attract high-tech businesses. He asked if there is any data available where communities have noted the correlation between historic preservation and enhanced economic development. Ms. Miller stated that she may have some materials relative to this and also suggested that members look into the work of Donovan Rypkema. Discussion ensued relative to the City's investment in historic preservation and historic development.

The Commission thanked Ms. Miller for her presentation and expressed an interest in submitted a letter of intent for upcoming grants.

4. Demolition Review Committee Report

Mr. Johnson noted that a request was received from the City to demolish the White Park Skate House. The Committee expressed no interest in documenting the building for historic purposes.

Mr. Johnson referenced the site walk at St. Peters Church, 135 N. State Street. A tour was conducted. A public hearing was held. Mr. Woodfin stated that he took pictures and they have been added to the Flickr site.

5. Follow up Items

a. Alternate Members Update – Chairman Jaques

This item was continued to November.

b. Website

Ms. Shank updated the Commission on the status of the website. She stated that there will be six new pages for the Heritage Commission. The pages have been partially drafted. Staff would like to make the pages live to share the changes and have discussion. It is difficult to print them out accurately when the links are currently inactive. Members discussed what photographs might be appropriate for the Demo Review tab. This conversation will continue at the next meeting.

It was requested that Commission members' title be added to the Heritage Commission page.

6. Review of Correspondence - *No new correspondence.*

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7. Old Business

a. Sewall's Falls MOU

Ms. Shank stated that she spoke with David Cedarholm, the City Engineer, who has met with McFarland Johnson. The impression is that the signs will cost more than what is allocated. She will set up a meeting with Mr. Cedarholm, Liz Hengen, and McFarland Johnson to discuss sizes, design costs, and installation costs. Additional discussion was held regarding using another sign company.

b. Demolition Delay Ordinance

A discussion was held regarding scheduling a special meeting dedicated to addressing this topic, proposed revisions, and establishing clear parameters. A doodle poll will be sent to members.

c. Historic Photo Repository/Contents of Pictures

Nothing new to report at this time.

8. Any other business to come before the Commission

a. November Meeting – Kimball Jenkins Estate and Tour

Ms. Brook made a motion to hold the November meeting at the Kimball Jenkins Estate. Mr. Woodfin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Attendance

Ms. Brook suggested that in order to help with quorums, an agenda item be placed at the end of every meeting, so that each attending member may indicate whether they plan to or not plan to attend the next meeting

c. Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Brooks provided an item of information: The Chamber of Commerce Historic Walking Tour will have signs placed on building around Concord. She stated that the signs were funded in part by Heritage Concord Inc. This was the Committee's final act as they have sunset.

d. Letter of Intent for Grant Funds

Ms. Shank stated that the deadline for the letter of intent for grant funds is November. She asked if there is any interest and for ideas. Members agreed that something should be put together and agreed to pursue an educational type session for other heritage commissions.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Ms. Brooks motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Woodfin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Fellows-Weaver
Administrative Specialist