

## HERITAGE COMMISSION

### Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Heritage Commission was held on May 7, 2020, via Zoom, at 4:30 p.m.

Attendees: Present at the meeting were Chair Richard Jaques, Vice-Chair Jim Spain, Members Rich Woodfin, Bryant Tolles, Carol Durgy Brooks, and Alternate Mike Dunn. Councilor Jennifer Kretovic arrived at 4:44 p.m.

Absent: Bob Johnson

Staff: Heather Shank, City Planner  
Lisa Fellows-Weaver, Administrative Specialist

#### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jaques at 4:34 p.m. at which time Mr. Jaques read the following statement:

As Chair of the Concord NH Heritage Commission, due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Commission is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to the meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, we have provided public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, and instructions are provided on the City of Concord's website at: [www.concordnh.gov/planning](http://www.concordnh.gov/planning)

#### **With Regard to providing public access to the meeting;**

We are utilizing the Zoom platform for this electronic meeting. All members of the Commission have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through the Zoom platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through visiting the following website address: <https://zoom.us/j/181542776>.

If you do not have website access, you may dial the following phone number 929-205-6099 and enter the webinar id 181 54 2776.

For those calling in who want to provide public testimony, *via* the website, you may click on the chat icon to ask, or click "raise hand" to be recognized as authorized by the Chair. For participants, dialing in on a phone, you may dial \*9 to alert the Chair that you want to testify. Please note that testimony only applies to public hearings, and public participation may not be authorized in a public meeting which is not a public hearing.

#### **With Regard to providing the public with a way to alert us about access problems;**

If anybody has a problem, please call 603-225-8515 or send an email to: [planning@concordnh.gov](mailto:planning@concordnh.gov).

#### **With Regard to adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting;**

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, we will adjourn the meeting and have it rescheduled at that time.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote.

With that, let's start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their presence, also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

#### **Reminder for the public:**

If you have a question or any trouble accessing this meeting please call the planning dept. at

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### Reminder to Commission members:

- Please mute yourself when not speaking.
- Please raise your hand in the participants section of your Zoom screen.
  - Also, if viewing in gallery view, wave your hand in front of the camera to make sure you are heard.
- In your zoom screen, change your view in the upper right corner from speaker view to gallery view to see all panelists.

### 1. Call to Order and Seating of Alternates

Chairman Jaques called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Mr. Spain made a motion to seat Alternate member Dunn to the Commission for this meeting. Seconded by Ms. Brooks.

With a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, as follows:

Mr. Jaques – in favor  
Mr. Spain – in favor  
Mr. Woodfin – in favor  
Mr. Tolles – in favor  
Ms. Brooks – in favor  
Mr. Dunn – in favor

### 2. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Brooks moved to approve the minutes of March 5, 2020, as amended. Mr. Tolles seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously, as follows:

Mr. Jaques – in favor  
Mr. Spain – in favor  
Mr. Woodfin – in favor  
Mr. Tolles – in favor  
Ms. Brooks – in favor  
Mr. Dunn – in favor

### 3. New Business

#### a. Birchdale Road – MOA

Martha Drukker, City of Concord Associate Engineer provided an update on the Birchdale Road Bridge and memorandum of agreement proposed between the Army Corp. of Engineers, the City of Concord, and the NH Historic Office of Preservation. She explained that this bridge will be replaced as it has been deemed to be unsafe and is structurally deficient. Funding has been provided through the NHDOT State Aid Bridge Program. The project will take about 12 to 18 months to complete. The Birchdale Bridge is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic places. The City must complete a Bridge Asset Management Plan. In addition, the City will be on their own for the replacement and repairs of red listed bridges. She added that the City will also

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be required to hire a bridge historian and prioritize the bridges in the management plan. The State is using the City as a pilot program to get a maintenance and preservation plan into the capital improvement plans state wide. She noted that there will also be repairs done to the bridge on Hooksett Road.

The Commission thanked Ms. Drukker for attending the meeting and providing the information on the bridge project.

#### **b. Sewall's Falls MoU – City Engineer David Cedarholm**

City Engineer David Cedarholm provided an update relative to the final version of the interpretive panel for the Sewall's Falls sign. He stated that they are working on a few last minute details to the panel including adding a Concord Coach to the bottom left corner. He stated that the plan is to install the sign next month with a soft opening. A dedication will hopefully be planned for some time in the summer and at that time also acknowledge the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the demolition of the train station.

Members were impressed and pleased; they felt it had been very well done and thanked all involved for their time and effort with this project.

#### **c. Stickney Avenue Highway Garage Complex Disposal**

Ms. Shank referred members to the many documents linked in the agenda. She added that this is a request for comments or feedback.

A discussion was held regarding the property location. Councilor Kretovic noted that the City sees this area as a site for a combination of commercial and residential development. Additional discussion was held about the ongoing discussions of the I-93 proposed widening and the impacts to this property. Councilor Kretovic stated that there is sure to be some reconfiguration of Stickney Ave., without tearing this structure down nothing will be able to be done.

Mr. Woodfin noted that there is a turn-style inside this building. Mr. Spain asked if there may be an opportunity to get some pictures of the interior. It is unknown at the time whether there is any access to the building.

#### **4. Demolition Review Committee**

Mr. Spain reported that Craig Walker reached out to him and invited him and members of the Demolition Review Committee to document the old railroad building off of South Main Street. He stated that he has taken some pictures of the exterior.

Councilor Kretovic stated there are many issues with the integrity of the structure and the structure is really not safe. She expressed concern with safety and recommended that people stay off of the property.

Ms. Shank stated that she does not believe that the City has taken any action pertaining to the request to demolish.

Councilor Kretovic mentioned a communication that went around relative to the possible demolition of a barn in Penacook. Mr. Woodfin stated that the City Solicitor has been involved with the viewing of this building. Nothing final has been scheduled at this time.

#### **5. Heritage Sign Program – Carol Brooks**

Ms. Brooks stated that no applications have been submitted.

#### **6. Planning Board Update – Rich Woodfin**

Mr. Woodfin gave an overview of the April 15<sup>th</sup> Planning Board meeting. With regard to the Abbott house, he reported that the owner requested resolution of all remaining conditions after proposing to subdivide the Abbott house from the rest of the property. He explained that the preservation specialist

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had felt that the applicants had met the intent of the conditions of the Board pertaining to repairs on the house. The Planning Board voted to authorize the issuance of building permits for 12 more units. No additional building permits or certificates of occupancy can be issued until the applicant has submitted a subdivision application. He stated that the Board still has leverage with regard to the house in that the owner needs additional COs and building permits.

Mr. Woodfin commented that the owner has no knowledge about the granite hitching posts that were part of the original approval. He stated that the applicant does not know where they are and has never seen them on the property. Ms. Brooks stated that the developer attended previous Heritage Commission meetings where the granite posts were discussed and he stated that he would look into it.

**7. City Council Update – Councilor Kretovic**

Councilor Kretovic stated that City Council is focused on City operations and the safety of the City's first responders and safety of the community. There have been some discussions regarding the Master Plan and the review. City Council has taken the opportunity to review historic preservation in an attempt to be more forward thinking. She stated that it is a perfect time to begin to look at things in the long term and how the City should work to get the community engaged. She believes that there will be great benefits as things begin to change. She mentioned that the extension of the time period for demolition review was discussed.

**8. Old Business**

**a. Abbott Village** – Nothing further.

**b. Demo Delay Ordinance**  
No new meetings have been held or scheduled.

**c. Historic Photo Repository – Rich Woodfin**  
No new information is available.

**d. Monuments & Granite Markers – Jim Spain**

Mr. Spain stated that he is planning to go to the forest surrounding Rivco to look for the missing marker.

**9. Any other business to come before the Commission**

**a. Other**

Mr. Jaques referenced the ongoing meetings of the historic preservation group and stated that findings will be presented in the future. Topics of discussion have been how to educate the public and the business people of Concord on the many historic properties in the City.

Ms. Shank stated that there are ways to obtain funds. Each year we have an opportunity through the CLG grants. Last year she submitted an application for a broad survey of the neighborhoods. She suggested that a future project be to look at the residential areas that are close to the down town, note the features, create a historic catalog and publicize it. It would generate a sense of pride and have an educational purpose as well. This would be a large project to scope out and it could be something that a consultant would need to complete. She added that the Historic Resources section of the Master Plan also needs to be updated.

Ms. Brooks commented that during the last Master Plan process much input was put on the village districts in the sign program.

Councilor Kretovic stated that there was discussion about going through the neighborhoods to identify the values of specific items, designs, etc., on the houses. She stated that the goal is to get the community engaged. The architectural survey in the library was referenced as it could be a resource.

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The Ad-hoc Committee will be added to the June agenda.

- b. Correspondence** – no new correspondence
- c. Attendance** - Next meeting is June 4, 2020.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Spain motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Brooks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously at 5:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa Fellows-Weaver  
Administrative Specialist