

HERITAGE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2022

The Heritage Commission held its regular monthly meeting at Council Chambers, 37 Green Street, Concord, New Hampshire, on Thursday, November 3, 2022.

Attendees: Chairman Richard Jacques, Vice-Chair Jim Spain, Councilor Jennifer Kretovic, Members Dr. Bryant Tolles Jr., and Alternate Althea Barton, and Alternate Mike Dunn

Absent: Carol Durgy Brooks

Staff: Heather Shank, City Planner
Alicen Twardosky, Administrative Specialist

1. Call to Order and Seating of Alternates

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jacques at 4:31 p.m.

Member Spain made a motion to seat Alternate Members Mike Dunn and Althea Barton for this meeting. Chairman Jacques seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes

Councilor Kretovic made a motion to approve the minutes from October 6, 2022, as written. Mr. Dunn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. New Business

• **Resume – Claudia Castellanos Cordero Heritage Trust – Letter**

Ms. Shank noted that there are two vacancies for full members and multiple vacancies for alternates. She reached out to Deirdra Brotherson to find out if she was still interested in becoming a member of the Commission. Chair Jacques would like to talk with Claudia Castellanos, whose resume was presented, before bringing her before the Commission.

Ms. Shank noted the preference to bring new members on as alternates vs. full member to afford them the opportunity to get familiar with the position first. All regular members present are expired and stated that they would like to continue on.

• **Referral from Council**

Ms. Amy Dixon (NHDHR), Mr. Arnie Alpert, and Mrs. Mary Lee Sergent presented a request to Council, which was referred to the Commission, to install a historic marker sign for Elizabeth Gurley Flynn at the corner of Montgomery and Court Street.

Ms. Dixon referred to the packet she provided to the city. Mr. Alpert from Canterbury gave a summary of Flynn's contributions as a historical figure, and the desire for the marker. He noted that Concord was Flynn's place of birth, her former home located at the corner of Montgomery and Court Street before being torn down.

Councilor Kretovic made a statement regarding Ms. Gurley Browns association with the Communist Party, explaining that in the context of that time, the association with communism was for advocacy of social welfare. She wanted it noted for the record that the association with communism at that time was very different from any association with the current political climate in Russia.

Councilor Kretovic also brought up the possibility of scan codes on historic signs, which would allow further enlightenment of the purpose of the historic marker(s).

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Vice Chair Spain would like the contact info of the project representatives for further/future consideration.

Councilor Kretovic motioned that the Heritage Commission support the request and ask that City Council approve the request as well. Seconded by Chairman Jacques.

Ms. Shank noted that the site lines should be taken into consideration for traffic safety regarding turning movements at that corner. She will provide a site line graphic prepared by the Engineering Division to Ms. Dixon for her to pass on to the project managers at DOT.

The motion passed unanimously.

- **Magnificent Ten**

Members who attended the October 20th work session summarized the Magnificent Ten discussion. Ms. Shank liked the idea of the three categories for awards. Chairman Jacques noted that it was a productive meeting. Members noted that the demolition review process happen separately from any possible nominations, and noted the possibility that the community would make the nominations. Ms. Barton noted that the Magnificent Ten was a great title for the purposes of preserving homes, providing publicity, and discouraging tendencies away from demolition.

Ms. Shank noted that she would share a link from Ms. Durfee-Hengen regarding other preservation strategies.

4. Demolition Review Committee – Jim Spain

- There were no new applications.

5. Heritage Sign Program

- Ms. Brooks was not present. Staff was not aware of any inquiries.

6. Planning Board Update – Heather Shank

- Ms. Shank shared that the application for “Arts Alley” had been submitted and reviewed at the last ADR meeting. Steve Duprey, the property owner, stated at that meeting that he had still not found an alternative location for the former Families in Transition building, and that it would be demolished if no location could be identified before construction was to begin.
- Ms. Barton asked for clarity on the timeline. Ms. Shanks explained that the Major Site Plan application was submitted. The project was expected to be determined complete at the November Planning Board meeting, with the public hearing in December. The timeline for construction to begin, and/or the demolition of the building, is not clear.

7. Council Update – Councilor Kretovic

- Ms. Kretovic had no updates, but noted that a consent report to Council should be put on the agenda for the diminimus donation of from her of \$252.00 for the cost of the website for historic photos. The amount is different this year due t increased space needed for the photos. The amount includes website hosting and the added gigabytes for photos.

8. Old Business

- **Gas Holder Building**

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Ms. Barton shared that the emergency stabilization phase is complete. She noted that there was a Monitor article written by David Brooks on this project. She noted that it is as weather tight as can be done at this point, and will stay this way until a new purpose is found. She also noted that there was a possibility of using the building as a landmark and other space on the lot for a new building.

- **Website – Councilor Kretovic & Mike Dunn**

It was noted that they should start thinking about how to include Magnificent Ten on the website.

- **Monuments & Granite Markers – Jim Spain**

Mr. Spain met with Ryan Rambeau from the City about trees in an effort to give an annual gift to cemeteries to repopulate (i.e. Old North Cemetery & Blossom Hill). He would like a monument salvaged from being overtaken by one of the trees.

9. Any other business to come before the Commission

- Ms. Shank noted that the Certified Local Government (CLG) annual report is due. She asked for assistance in documenting how many site visits for demolition reviews had occurred. Vice-Chair Spain will check his records.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, there was a motion to adjourn by Vice-Chair Spain and seconded by Dr. Tolles, which passed unanimously at 5:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alicen Twardosky
Administrative Specialist II

Next meeting scheduled for December 1st