

HERITAGE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2023

The Heritage Commission held its regular monthly meeting at Council Chambers, 37 Green Street, Concord, New Hampshire, on Thursday, May 4th, 2023.

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

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

Public: Jim McConaha

1. Call to Order and Seating of Alternates

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jaques at 4:37 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Jaques made a motion to approve the minutes from May 4, 2023. Ms. Barton seconded the motion. Ms. Barton asked that the minutes from April 6th be edited to reflect the proper spelling of Chris Demond's last name and Cathy Furlong's first name. Also, she asked for the time period to be changed from late 1900's to early 1900's pertaining to St. Paul's. All in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

3. New Business

- a. Mr. McConaha, former Director of NH Division of Historical Resources and former Heritage Commission member, was present to discuss the Elizabeth Gurley Flynn marker. He felt the marker should be re-installed. He stated that he planned to send a request to Council to request a public hearing regarding whether Council should petition the state to put the sign back. He assumed the request would be sent to the Heritage Commission for a recommendation and wanted to let members know. He stated that the removal of the sign did not follow proper procedures set by the state. He also feels that the majority of the public are in favor of replacing the sign based on public comments that have been made since its removal. Councilor Kretovic reported that she has been approached by Facebook followers and that a majority of the calls she receives are in favor of the sign. Members were in support of Mr. McConaha sending the request to Council.
- b. Mr. Dunn asked Mr. McConaha why the Hannah Dustin state marker isn't being maintained. It stands vandalized and in disrepair. Mr. McConaha stated it has been restored before. This marker has caused controversy in the past because of its wording, making it a target. Ms. Barton and Councilor Kretovic both recalled a meeting that occurred between people who claim to represent the Abenaki Tribe and the State. to address this. Mr. McConaha stated the option of having it reworded after DHR review.

4. Demolition Review Committee – Jim Spain

- a. Vice Chair Spain stated that the most recent application received was last month, 294 South Street. The Demolition Review Committee (DRC) conducted a site visit. The Alosa family proposed demolishing the entire house, leaving only the barn. Vice Chair Spain advised the owners that the home is also known as Dunn Farm and is from the Colonial Period. He stated that the DRC was not in favor of the entire home being torn down. The owners and the DRC members discussed the idea of tearing down the milk-parlor addition and restoring the original house rather than demolishing the entire structure. The owners were amenable to that.

Next meeting is being held on July 6, 2023.

HERITAGE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2023

- b. Ms. Brooks asked why there isn't a general page on the City website for public notices, to include properties applying for demolition. Ms. Twardosky will reach out to Stefanie Breton (Public Information Officer) for ideas on how to share.

5. Heritage Sign Program – Carol Brooks

No new questions from the continued group Ms. Brooks has been working with. She responded to an inquiry from them but she hasn't heard back.

6. Planning Board Update – Heather Shank

- a. 103 Old Loudon Road: The owners have decided against tearing this home down. It is on the National Registry.
- b. St. Paul's School said that they would look into keeping the fence at the request of the Heritage Commission. The Commission discussed sending correspondence to the developers reminding them of the conversation they had with DRC members back in April during their on-site visit. Chairman Jaques will write a letter. The Planning Board will receive a copy and staff will include it in the St. Paul's project folder. The letter could include the option to donate the posts to the City if they are not going to be kept.

Ms. Barton asked if the public is aware of this demolition and if not, should we notify them. Ms. Shank noted that the notification for the public meeting is intended to accomplish this. Ms. Barton felt the ordinance does not require the public to be notified far enough in advance. Ms. Shank noted that the City is now posting the notices in the City Manager's Newsletter as well as posting notices as legally required. She suggested Commission members could further raise awareness through social media or letters to the editor. Councilor Kretovic and Ms. Barton stated that they could write something up on social media. Chairman Jaques stated that he could write a letter to the editor. Vice Chair Spain agreed to assist Chairman Jaques in writing the letter. The letter could be sent to Ms. Twardosky to be forwarded to the Committee.

7. Council Update – Councilor Kretovic

Nothing reported.

8. Old Business

- a. Magnificent Ten
There is a meeting on June 7th @ 4:30 in the large conference room, 41 Green Street to discuss how to move this initiative forward, which is intended to highlight historic properties in Concord.
- b. Gas Holder Building
No updates. Ms. Barton stated that they continue to host a booth at Market Days. They will be there again on June 22nd-24th. She also stated they will be sharing with the Historical Society again.
- c. Website – Mike Dunn and Councilor Kretovic
Mr. Dunn worked for a long time today. After placing pictures in for three hours, the system crashed. He will follow up.
- d. Monuments & Granite Markers – Jim Spain
Mr. Spain asked if the Heritage Commission would write a letter to the State in support of the project to replace the clock faces on the Eastman Clock to apply for a grant. Ms. Brooks asked that Mr. Finney write the Commission a letter summarizing what he is doing and specifics on how the

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HERITAGE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2023

Commission can support him. A copy of email correspondence between Vice Chair Spain and Mr. Finney was provided to the members.

Ms. Brooks motioned for the Heritage Commission to send a letter of support for this project to include the email correspondence details as well as a picture of what is written on the clock. Mr. Dunn seconded. A copy of this letter and a picture of what is written on the monument will be forwarded to Ms. Twardosky and she will forward it out to the Commission members. Vice Chair Spain abstained from voting. All who voted were in favor. Motion carries.

Ms. Barton suggested the possibility of dedicating some funds to research and share more historic stories, much like the State's Historical Marker Program, of people being represented on various markers, including the Abenaki people. Mr. Spain will write something up for the Concord Monitor.

Chairman Jaques agrees to writing the letter and seeing where it goes from there before pursuing Ms. Barton's idea to dedicate funds for researching historic stories.

9. Any other business to come before the Commission

a. Correspondence

Invitation from Lynn Woodard re: 13 District 5 Road

Mr. Woodard has a 1700's house that he has been restoring and invited the Heritage Commission to go visit. Ms. Shank will forward the information to the Commission so they can move forward with making the plan to visit.

b. Attendance

All present plan to be in attendance next month.

10. Adjournment

With no other business to address, Ms. Brooks motioned, seconded by Vice Chair Spain, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously at 6:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alicen Twardosky
Administrative Specialist II

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