

HERITAGE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes September 7th, 2023

The Heritage Commission held its regular monthly meeting at Council Chambers, 37 Green Street, Concord, New Hampshire, on Thursday, September 7th, 2023.

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

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

1. Call to Order and Seating of Alternates

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jaques at 4:35 p.m. Ms. Durgy Brooks made a motion to seat Ms. Barton; Councilor Kretovic seconded; all in favor, motion carried.

2. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Durgy Brooks made a motion to approve the minutes from August 3rd, 2023, Ms. Barton seconded; all in favor, motion carried.

3. New Business

Budget document language – Ms. Shank stated that a request to review language from the budget pertaining to the history of Concord was referred to the Heritage Commission for comment.

During review of the budget, Councilor Brown had suggested adding the word “thousands” in a sentence pertaining to the length of time Native Americans had been in the area of Concord. Councilor Kretovic explained to the Commission that this language was included on a page taken directly from a State document and inserted in its entirety into the budget, due to demographic and statistical information relevant to the budget process.

Heritage members noted that the historical language included on this page contains multiple inaccuracies and is irrelevant to the budget process. Several members suggested removing the page. Councilor Kretovic pointed out that the page is included for the necessary demographic data.

With regard to the addition of the word “thousands”, members noted that regardless of where this statement originally appeared, it does not appear to be proven. Members were not aware of any research to back up the statement.

In response to the request for comment, Ms. Durgy Brooks made a motion to respond to Council with the following statement:

“Historical reference in the city budget from the state website appears irrelevant to the budget process. Given this information, the Heritage Commission recommends removing this document from further budget cycles to eliminate confusion.

Further, the Heritage Commission found the paragraph about the History of Concord to include numerous errors. If Council decides to keep the State’s page, the Heritage Commission would gladly work with the State of NH (authors of the document) to correct the inaccuracies. Otherwise, the City should develop its own demographic data to be included in the budget.

With regard to references in the City website to historical data, the Heritage Commission would be happy to work with the Public Information Office to assure a higher level of accuracy than is present today should the website undergo redevelopment.”

Councilor Kretovic seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion carried.

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4. Demolition Review Committee – Jim Spain

The public hearing for 8 Water Street went well. Ms. Barton gave a presentation. There was a lot of outpouring of sentiment from the community. The freight building was determined to be historically significant but approved for demolition due to a lack of structural integrity. The train tower was structurally ok and also determined to be historically significant. The Committee did not recommend it for demolition; it will go to the end of the 90 day delay period. Mr. Spain indicated that Peter Dearness was going to communicate with the railroad to pursue other options to demolition. No one from the railroad was present at the hearing.

Members expressed concern about the roof because it had been stripped and was only plywood. Community members asked if it could be covered to preserve the structural integrity. Members were pleased that there was so much public support to preserve the building.

Ms. Barton commended staff for getting the word out in the City Managers Newsletter and social media.

5. Heritage Sign Program – Carol Brooks

No new inquiries.

6. Planning Board Update – Heather Shank

Ms. Shank gave a summary of proposed renovations to 177 N. State Street as part of the conversion to residential units.

7. Council Update – Councilor Kretovic

Councilor Kretovic shared the situation regarding the Elizabeth Hurley Flynn sign. A group of residents is asking the City to get the State to return the sign and reinstall it. There is a lawsuit against the State pending, stating that the sign was removed illegally and violated the State's rules. Council will wait to see how the lawsuit plays out before taking any actions.

8. Old Business

- a. Magnificent Ten – Program Name: Honoring Architectural – Historic Buildings

Mr. Jaques said he would follow up when he gets back in town after the October meeting

- b. Gas Holder Building – No update

- c. Website – Mike Dunn and Councilor Kretovic – No update

- d. Monuments & Granite Markers – Jim Spain – Nothing new to report.

- e. Norris Mansion – Mr. Spain will try to meet with Mr. Jaques to discuss this and/or approach Steve Duprey, poles in friendly parking lot are leaning, shoot an email to code

9. Any other business to come before the Commission

- a. Correspondence:

- b. Attendance

All present plan to be in attendance next month.

10. Adjournment

With no other business to address, Ms. Brooks motioned, seconded by Dr. Tolles, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously at 5:50 p.m.

Next monthly meeting will be held on October th at 4:30 p.m.

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Respectfully Submitted,
Heather R. Shank, AICP
City Planner