

HERITAGE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2024

The Heritage Commission held its regular monthly meeting in Council Chambers at 37 Green St, on Thursday, October 3, 2024.

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

Absent: Michael Dunn

Staff: AnneMarie Skinner, City Planner
Krista Tremblay, Administrative Specialist II

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jaques at 4:30 p.m.

2. Minutes – Approve meeting minutes of September 5, 2024

Mr. Spain moved, seconded by Dr. Bryant Tolles, Jr., to accept the minutes from September 5, 2024, as written. All in favor. Motion passed. Carol Durgy Brooks abstained as she was not present at the September meeting.

3. New Business

a. Comment on New Hampshire Department of Transportation culvert work letter, dated September 6, 2024

Ms. Skinner briefly described the request and specifically read question 4: “Are there any cultural resources of significance in the vicinity of the project? (e.g. stonewalls, cemeteries, historical or archeological resources, etc.) Please note that Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act offers those that possess a direct interest in historical resources, including town officials, Historical Societies, and Historical Commissions, an opportunity to become more involved in an advisory role during project development as "Consulting Parties. Those interested should contact the Department.”

Mr. Spain stated everything west of the Merrimack River was called the Dark Plains. Prior to being called the Dark Plains it was called the Burglars sland because a lot of bandits lived there. Mr. Spain stated historically in that area it was called Break O’Day due to standing in a specific location in the area and seeing the sun rising. Mr. Spain noted at Break O’Day during the Civil War period a training camp was located there.

Mr. Spain also mentioned the Josiah Bartlett Cemetery.

Councilor Kretovic noted the Josiah Bartlett Cemetery is not in the culvert area.

Mr. Spain stated the whole area of the Heights is the Dark Plains. Mr. Spain stated the area also contained the first highway going from Concord to Portsmouth.

Councilor Kretovic stated finding Native American artifacts is always a possibility. in that area.

Councilor Kretovic made a motion to recommend a response letter be sent with the information

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provided above. Mr. Spain seconded.

Discussion.

Ms. Barton stated the motion should state to acknowledge this is a very historic area from thousands of years ago and recommend the applicant also consult the New Hampshire Department of Historic Resources.

All in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Old/Continuing Business

- a. Property Recognition – discuss draft Awards Presentation Event document

Chair Jaques asked the members if they had time to review the draft document.

Ms. Barton asked about the next step in the process.

Chair Jaques stated the next step is to decide about categories and then publicize for nominations. A date will need to be set for submission of nominations, and a committee will need to be formed to select the winners. A speaker will also be needed.

Councilor Kretovic noted they originally talked about the Property Recognition Awards Presentation being a co-sponsored event with the Concord Historical Society. Councilor Kretovic stated the mayor, president of the Concord Historical Society, and Chair Jaques would be the speakers for the event.

Ms. Barton asked about inviting the Penacook Historical Society.

Chair Jaques stated that an invitation would be given to the Penacook Historical Society.

Councilor Kretovic stated the restoration of a town landmark would be a City landmark award. The Eastman Clock is a City landmark in the process of restoration, and the dedication ceremony for the clock will be next June.

Ms. Barton asked if the City landmark is a thing or a building?

Chair Jaques noted buildings are covered in another category.

Councilor Kretovic read it as a restoration project.

Chair Jaques noted the next category as the lifetime achievement award.

Councilor Kretovic stated she see this aware as honoring a person.

Chair Jaques will incorporate the suggestions into the draft document and email a revised draft for

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review at the next meeting.

b. Airport Terminal

Ms. Barton asked Ms. Skinner about the City Council agenda item on October 15, 2024, for a \$250,000 grant for the environmental review for the new airport terminal.

Ms. Skinner stated that she had no information on the agenda item or the grant.

c. Monuments and Granite Markers

Mr. Spain had nothing to report on this agenda item.

d. CSX Tower

Mr. Spain presented pictures he took that day of the area, noting that wood from the building has been removed to burn and there is a lot of debris at the site. Mr. Spain stated the building is disassembling itself. Mr. Spain wanted to update the members on the current status of the area, and will send the pictures to CSX.

e. Review of revised website paragraph under Concord's history

Councilor Kretovic stated she very recently emailed the paragraph to Ms. Barton for her review and editing.

f. Old Penacook Library deed restriction discussion

Ms. Barton stated at the September it was discussed to have this item on the agenda so they could draft a letter to City Council to review the deed restriction language proposed by staff and make recommendations about provisions that could be added to protect features that were important to the community.

Chair Jaques stated that he did not write or draft a letter.

Ms. Barton did some research on what the deed restriction language might look like, and it is about what the Heritage Commission thinks is important. Ms. Barton will email her research to Ms. Skinner and Ms. Skinner will forward to the members.

5. Demolition Review Committee update

Mr. Spain reported there are no applications at this time.

Ms. Skinner noted that she is the contact for the Demolition Review Committee.

6. Heritage Sign Review Committee update

Ms. Durgy-Brooks stated no new sign applications have been submitted. Ms. Durgy-Brooks asked for someone to volunteer to join the committee so they have three people and a full committee. Ms. Durgy-Brooks stated if they have a new application, the meeting is the first Wednesday of the month from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. at City Hall. Chair Jaques stated he will join the committee as the third member.

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7. Planning Board

Ms. Barton asked for an update on the joint session between the Planning Board and Architectural Design Review Committee.

Ms. Skinner stated there was a joint session September 18, 2024. The direction was to have staff incorporate Ms. Hengen's language and go for a public hearing with the Planning Board on October 16, 2024.

8. City Council

Councilor Kretovic reported that the clock restoration in East Concord is having issues with trees. The matter is going to the Tree Subcommittee and may also be presented to the Heritage Commission.

9. Other Business

- Ms. Barton stated that on October 9, 2024, the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance is doing an announcement for the Seven to Save. Everyone is invited. It is located at a venue in Bradford.
- Ms. Barton noted that on October 15, 2024, a group of Concord residents are meeting at Feathered Friends to discuss historic preservation.
- Ms. Barton asked about demolition and the definition of demolition referencing the property on Warren Street and the concern about its demolition without going before the Demolition Review Committee. Ms. Barton stated she reviewed the demolition review ordinance. In the example of Warren Street, staff stated it did not constitute demolition because the foundation was left at the property. Ms. Barton read the from the ordinance the definition of demolition as "the act of pulling down, destroying, removing, relocating or razing, a building or part of a building or commencing any such work."

Dr. Tolles, Jr., stated it is a broad definition.

Ms. Skinner stated the property on Warren Street was hazardous.

Councilor Kretovic stated that a demolition permit was never filed. They brought Code in and Code stated it the structure was hazardous.

Ms. Skinner stated the building was way beyond repair.

- Ms. Barton became aware of a report on reserve funds for community improvement. Ms. Barton noted that there are \$1.1 million dollars of funds available for City-wide uses, including items of historical significance.

Chair Jaques asked if the funds are only for historic items.

Ms. Barton stated no, there are a number of different items for which the funds can be used.

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Councilor Kretovic asked if it is state funding, and that they can apply for a grant.

Ms. Barton stated it is funds for community improvement reserve. Ms. Barton asked for Ms. Skinner to bring up at next meeting.

Ms. Skinner asked for more information.

Ms. Barton stated it was on the City Council agenda last month.

Councilor Kretovic read: “The resolution of 1.14 million dollars is a transfer to the community improvement reserve accepting the sum of 1.14 million dollars in grant proceeds from the New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs Division of Economic Development for this purpose and along with a report from the Deputy City Manager of Finance.” Councilor Kretovic stated it was money the City of Concord received. It is a part of investing New Hampshire Municipal grant monies.

Ms. Skinner stated it can be used for anything. The City is in talks on what to use the money for as the amount of money will not go far. Ms. Skinner stated there are water, sewer, and sidewalks that need to be completed for infrastructure.

Ms. Barton asked how they can have funds added to the Heritage Commission fund.

Councilor Kretovic stated they would need to present a project and amount of funds needed to staff to start the process of searching for grant money.

Ms. Durgy-Brooks stated the first thing they should do is research items of historic significance and identify what they would like to do.

- Chair Jaques handed out information on New Hampshire RSA regarding heritage commissions. Chair Jaques asked the members to take the document home and read it. Chair Jaques stated this is what the Heritage Commission was designed from when it was started. Chair Jaques wanted to point out the first paragraph c. and d. Chair Jaques stated the Heritage Commission gets direction from the Planning Board and the Planning Board contacts the Heritage Commission when the Planning Board wants input from the Heritage Commission.

Adjournment

Mr. Spain moved, seconded by Carol Durgy Brooks, to adjourn the meeting at 5:54 p.m. All in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Tremblay

Krista Tremblay

Administrative Specialist II