

HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

DRAFT

April 5, 2007

The Heritage Commission held its regular monthly meeting in the City Council Chambers at 37 Green Street, Concord NH on Thursday, April 5, 2007.

1. Call to Order:

Chairperson Donovan called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM.

Present at the meeting were Chairperson Donovan, Dr. Douglas Black, Carol Durgy Brooks, Frederick Richards, William McGonagle, Elizabeth Durfee Hengen, James McConaha, member-in-training Colin Curley. City Planner Douglas Woodward and Administrative Specialist Denise Taschereau were also present.

Absent from the meeting were Vice-Chairperson Steve Shurtleff, Robert Johnson and Marilyn Fraser.

2. Minutes of March 1, 2007:

The commission considered the minutes of March 1, 2007. Ms. Brooks made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. McGonagle seconded the motion. Chairperson Donovan asked if there was any discussion regarding the minutes. There was no discussion. The motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.

3. New Business:

3a. Bicentennial Square update from Groundworks Concord:

Nancy Berliner of Groundworks Concord presented the commission with an updated of the renovations of Bicentennial Square. The history tiles will be made out of granite that will be sandblasted. It is anticipated that the tiles will be ready in 1 – 2 months. Samples can be brought to the commission for there review, if requested. Ms. Berliner informed the commission of plans to include a commemorative sign. This sign will be a replica of the current sign. The size will be approximately 18' x 24'. The sign will have general information about the project, including funding sources and donors. The possible location for the sign will be attached to the Granite State Candy Building. Ms. Berliner next asked for feedback and recommendations from the commission.

Ms. Brooks asked if the sign could be freestanding.

Ms. Berliner responded that she felt that the look of a freestanding sign would take away from the natural feeling of the sign. She also was concerned with the cost of a freestanding sign. It was suggested by the commission to reword the “200 years” sentence and remove the “see graphic” from the text on the sign.

Ms. Berliner stated that the 2 archways are still in the plan, and hopefully will be installed sometime in the future. The approximate cost of these archways would be \$60,000. A large donor would be needed to fund the archways.

Chairperson Donovan asked if a sign will be placed on the Pleasant Street side of the square.

Ms. Berliner responded that it has not been discussed. She would speak to City Engineer Ed Roberge about it.

3b. Request to rename Stump Dump Road:

Dr. Dave Berliner from Veterinary Properties, LLC spoke to the commission regarding the renaming of Stump Dump Road. They had submitted a list of names to the Planning Board for consideration. All of the names had some connection to the Emergency Veterinary Hospital which is to be built on one of the 2 lots on Stump Dump Road. Herriot Lane was suggested by Dr. Berliner, which references a famous author of animal related stories.

There was some discussion regarding the location of the road and how it got its current name.

Mr. Richards stated that he had done some research on the area. It was known as “the intervalle” or low land area.

Ms. Hengen had obtained a plan of the area from 1726 which showed the area to have 6 acre field lots. It was noted on the plan as a great plain area.

Dr. Berliner stated that Veterinary Properties, LLC would be happy with any other name than the current, Stump Dump Road.

Mr. McGonagle suggested that the commission make recommendations to the City Council to endorse the idea that the naming of a street should not be connected to a business. The name should reflect the culture and history of the area.

Ms. Hengen also suggested that the “road” or “street” be used instead of “drive” or “circle”.

It was agreed by the commission to recommend the following names to the City Council:

- Intervale
- Great Plains
- Wattanumans
- Hale’s Point

3c. Montreal – Boston Bike Race:

Mr. McConaha stated that he attended one meeting on the bike race. Most of the discussion at the meeting was about the race itself. He stated that he is not sure what role the Heritage Commission should play in this event. He suggested that the Penacook Historical Society or the Concord Historical Society might have a role in the event. He also felt that it would take a significant amount of volunteer time.

Mr. Richards agreed with Mr. McConaha.

3d. Street Name Manuscript by Bernard Ash:

No discussion.

3e. Electronic Message Center Signs:

Mr. Woodward stated that the case would be in New Hampshire Supreme Court on Tuesday. There has been no movement in Federal Court on the case.

3f. Commission Procedural Rules Amendment:

No discussion.

4. Old Business:

4a. Demolition Review – Committee Report:

No report given.

4b. Master Plan – Subcommittee Report:

Mr. Richards asked Mr. Woodward the status of the Master Plan.

Mr. Woodward responded that the Heritage Commission's section is all set. The entire Master Plan is with the consultant.

4c. Heritage Sign Program Report:

No report given.

4d. Sewalls Falls Bridge – Committee Report:

No report given.

4e. Architectural Surveys on the Website:

No discussion

5. Dates, conferences, correspondence:

No discussion.

6. Other business:

Mr. McConaha stated that there is grant money available again this year. The application deadline is June 1, 2007. This money can be used for surveys or restorations.

Chairperson Donovan asked if this should be added as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Ms. Hengen made a motion to add the grant application as an agenda item. Mr. Richards seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Hengen stated that we have not survey data on out buildings, farms and barns. It was suggested that we could involve owners in barn preservation.

Ms. Hengen mentioned the recent articles in the Concord Monitor regarding the worst eyesores in Concord. She stated that she had a conversation with Maggie Steir of the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance regarding these articles. Ms. Steir stated that she was going to write a letter to the Concord Monitor discussing the pending preservation projects. Ms. Steir suggested to Ms. Hengen the possibility of creating a preservation commission. An informational meeting would be held to get residents involved in preservation. It could possibly be a private non-profit organization that would work with the Heritage Commission.

Dr. Black stated that individuals have a difference of opinion as to what is beautiful vs. what is an eyesore.

Mr. Richards suggested this new commission could form an alliance with other organization that is already established.

Ms. Hengen asked if the Heritage Commission should be mentioned in the proposed letter to the Concord Monitor.

Chairperson Donovan suggested that Ms. Steir be invited to the next Heritage Commission meeting.

Ms. Hengen requested that implementation strategies be e-mailed to commission members ahead of the next meeting.

Chairperson Donovan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Richards seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

Denise Taschereau
Administrative Specialist II
Community Development Department