

# HERITAGE COMMISSION

*October 4, 2007*

The Heritage Commission held its regular monthly meeting in the City Council Chambers at 37 Green Street, Concord NH on Thursday, October 4, 2007 at 4:30 PM.

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 PM by Chairperson Donovan.

Present at the meeting were Chairperson Donovan, Vice Chairperson Steve Shurtleff, Dr. Douglas Black, Robert Johnson, Carol Durgy Brooks, Marilyn Anne Fraser, William McGonagle, James McConaha, and Elizabeth Durfee Hengen. Deputy City Manager – Development Carlos Baía, City Planner Douglas Woodward and Administrative Specialist Denise Taschereau were also present.

Absent from the meeting was Frederick Richards.

2. Minutes of September 6, 2007:

The commission considered the minutes of September 6, 2007. Vice Chairperson Steve Shurtleff made a motion to accept the minutes. Ms. Brooks 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:

The new Deputy City Manager for Development, Carlos Baía introduced himself to the commission. He summarized his background and offered his assistance to the commission.

Mr. McConaha suggested that the commission organize a tour for Carlos Baía of historical landmarks in Concord.

Chairperson Donovan asked to add 2 new items to the agenda for discussion. They were an update on the historical marker currently located at Goodwill Industries on Loudon Road and a discussion on the Concord School Buildings.

Mr. McGonagle asked for an update on the Hoyt Electric demolition.

Mr. Woodward gave an update on Hoyt Electric. It is his understanding that the owners are still undecided as to the extent of the demolition. They possibly could back to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Planning Board in November.

Mr. Hengen asked if photographic documentation had been done of the property.

Chairperson Donovan responded that it had not.

Vice Chairperson Shurtleff will arrange for an appointment for the photographs to be taken.

Chairperson Donovan asked Mr. Woodward that if the demolition does go forward, that the commission be notified. Mr. Woodward agreed.

Vice Chairperson Shurtleff asked if there was a time limit on the demolition permit.

Mr. Woodward responded that he believed it was 6 months.

Chairperson Donovan asked Mr. McConaha for an update on the Concord Schools.

Mr. McConaha stated that the Concord Schools had been nominated in the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance's "Seven to Save" Program. This is a statewide effort to preserve endangered properties. The selections have already been made. The announcement will take place next week at the First Baptist Church in Epsom. This building was one of the winners last year. Mr. McConaha suggested that the commission should discuss the issue of the Concord Schools and possibly make recommendations for reuse and emphasize that these buildings are part of Concord's neighborhoods.

Mr. McConaha made a motion to add the Concord Schools to the agenda for next month. Vice Chairperson Shurtleff seconded the motion.

Chairperson Donovan asked if there was any discussion.

Vice Chairperson Shurtleff asked if it would be limited to elementary schools.

Mr. McConaha replied that all schools would be included.

Ms. Hengen stated that the commission should work with the School Board to explain the historical value of the schools.

Chairperson Donovan stated that a few years ago he and Mr. Woodward participated in a facilities committee that made recommendations to the School Board.

Chairperson Donovan suggested that the commission invite the Superintendent and the School Board to the next meeting to get an update on the plans for the schools.

Ms. Fraser stated that they are probably unaware of the Heritage Commission's role in the city.

Dr. Black suggested that perhaps someone should act as a liaison

Vice Chairperson Shurtleff stated that any proposed demolition would have to go through the Demolition Review Committee.

Ms. Hengen stated that these issues are not unique to Concord. She also asked that if school representatives are invited to the next meeting, that the members of the committee be notified as soon as possible.

Mr. Johnson asked that the committee be provided with additional information regarding the schools and perhaps have a tour of the buildings.

Mr. Woodward stated that the report that the committee did a few years ago has that type of information.

Ms. Hengen stated that she believed that the report is on the Concord School District's website.

Vice Chairperson Shurtleff stated that a few months ago, the School Board made a presentation to the legislature. The proposed plan included the closure of Rumford, Walker, Dame, Eastman and Conent Schools.

The vote was unanimous to add Concord Schools to the agenda for next month, with Ms. Brooks abstaining from the vote.

Ms. Brooks stated that she will be abstaining from all discussion and voting regarding Concord Schools.

Chairperson Donovan asked for an update on the historic marker.

Ms. Fraser stated that it is still there.

Vice Chairperson Shurtleff stated that the tree that was in the bump out had been cut down.

Mr. Woodward responded that he believed that the tree was diseased. He believed that a new tree will be planted.

Mr. McConaha stated that the correct location for the marker had been found on Main Street and that General Services should move the marker.

Chairperson Donovan suggested that the marker should be moved to the Main Street location and the City would not have to spend money on purchasing a new tree.

Mr. McConaha stated that he would approach General Services Director Chip Chelsey about the issue.

Chairperson Donovan stated that we needed to be a letter from Goodwill Industries giving the City permission to remove the marker.

4. Old Business:

4a. Section 106 consultation – Verizon Wireless cell tower:

No discussion.

4b. Heritage Sign Program:

No discussion.

4c. Master Plan – Subcommittee Report:

Mr. Woodward gave an update on the Master Plan. He stated that the Planning Board has reviewed the draft of the Master Plan. He stated that the Planning Board was impressed with the Heritage Commission's chapter. They did have minor comments. They were concerned that archeological issues were not addressed. Mr. Woodward responded to the board that it can be expanded in the future. The board thought that an additional goal could be the stonewalls and stonework in the City of Concord. The Planning Board is working towards publication and will schedule a public hearing on the Master Plan, probably after Thanksgiving.

Chairperson Donovan stated that he and the commission members would like to thank Ms. Hengen and Mr. Richards for all of their hard work on the Master Plan.

Ms. Hengen stated that the chapter ends with a list of recommendations. They should be reviewed on an annual basis. Some of these items have funding available.

4d. Commission Procedural Rules Amendment:

No discussion.

4e. Electronic Message Center Signs:

No discussion.

4f. Demolition Review – Committee Report:

Discussed earlier in the meeting. No additional report given.

4g. Architectural Surveys on the Website:

No report given.

5. Dates, conferences, correspondence:

None.

6. Other Business:

Mr. McConaha asked if the City had received the grant money yet.

Mr. Woodward responded that he had a message back in August that it was in process.

Mr. McConaha asked if a member of the commission should attend the City Council meeting for the public hearing on the Agricultural Discretionary Easement on the Winterling barn at 69 Mountain Road.

The committee responded that it would be a good idea, if someone would be available to attend.

Mr. McConaha stated that he will attend to represent the commission.

Chairperson Donovan stated that the suggestion had been made to him to move the location of the commission's monthly meeting to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room in City Hall. It was suggested because the conference room is smaller and has a smaller table.

Mr. McGonagle stated that is all members were present at a meeting; the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room would be too small.

Mr. Johnson stated that he felt that the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room was too small and it would be too difficult to see all members.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Chairperson Donovan at 5:45 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. McGonagle. The motion passed unanimously.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

Denise Taschereau  
Administrative Specialist II  
Community Development Department