

# HERITAGE COMMISSION

*September 4, 2008*

The Heritage Commission held its regular monthly meeting in the City Council Chambers at 37 Green Street, Concord NH on Thursday, September 4, 2008 at 4:30 PM.

1. Call to Order & Seating of Alternates:

Chairperson Donovan called the meeting to order at 4:40 PM.

Present at the meeting were Chairperson Donovan, Vice-Chairperson Frederick Richards, Dr. Douglas Black, Carol Durgy-Brooks, Robert Johnson, Elizabeth Durfee-Hengen, James McConaha. City Planner Douglas Woodward and Administrative Specialist Denise Taschereau were also present.

Guest Bryant Tolles was present for the meeting.

Absent from the meeting was Marilyn Anne Fraser.

Chairperson Donovan elevated the alternate members to full members.

2. Minutes of July 10, 2008 & August 7, 2008:

The commission considered the minutes of July 10, 2008. Mr. McConaha made a motion to accept the minutes. Vice Chairperson Richards seconded the motion. Chairperson Donovan asked if there was any discussion regarding the minutes. There was no discussion. The motion to accept the minutes of July 10, 2008 passed unanimously. The commission considered the minutes of August 7, 2008. Mr. McConaha made a motion to accept the minutes. Vice Chairperson Richards seconded the motion. Chairperson Donovan asked if there was any discussion regarding the minutes. Ms. Hengen stated that she had reviewed the minutes and did have corrections but she didn't have her corrected copy with her. She will forward her corrections to Mr. Woodward for consideration at the October meeting. The minutes of August 7, 2008 were tabled until next months meeting.

3. New Business:

No new business.

4. Old Business:

4a. Historic Agricultural Resources Survey:

Ms. Hengen presented an update of the project to the commission. She stated that the project had been put on the fast track for completion. The intent is to have the survey complete by the end of September. A PowerPoint presentation was shown to the commission at the August 2008 meeting. The first step of the project was to conduct fieldwork to determine the properties that would be included in the survey. The team discovered that there were more properties in

Concord that they had expected. The team decided that the properties that will be included in the survey would be properties that are more than 50 years old, on 10+ acres, and that have out buildings. There will be 3 barns included in the survey. They have no farmhouses and are not on 10+ acres, but are visible icons to Concord.

The team next sent surveys with cover letters to the property owners. The team has received a good response from the survey. About 25% of the property owners will participate. Two property owners have responded that they are not interested.

The results of the surveys will be put into a database with a web link with the address of the properties, maps and photos.

The team is confident that the work will be completed by the end of September.

Ms. Hengen suggested that the project be presented to the public during the winter in a public forum. She felt that the project would receive better attendance and attention in the winter.

Vice-Chairperson Richards suggested that the commission invite the Barn Program of the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance to the forum.

Chairperson Donovan asked where the information from the survey would be stored.

Ms. Hengen responded that there will be a hardcopy version, electronic version, and a copy will be in the Concord Room.

Mr. McConaha asked if the photos would be in color or black and white.

Ms. Hengen responded that the hardcopies will be black and white, and the digital version will have color.

Vice-Chairperson asked if the team had discovered any geographical clusters.

Ms. Hengen responded that yes, they did find a few clusters. They were found in the Stickney Hill, Oak Hill, River Road, Little Pond Road, and West Parish Road areas.

A field trip for the commission in October was suggested so that the commission could view the findings.

Mr. Johnson asked if the team would be doing any checking of the surveys.

Ms. Hengen responded that the team would be verifying the history of the last 50 years.

4b. Heritage Sign Program:

Ms. Brooks stated that she had received a new application two weeks ago. That applicant was working on a second application for their barn. An additional application was distributed to the commission tonight.

4c. Demolition Review – Committee Report:

Vice-Chairperson Richards stated that they had received one application. It was for the meetinghouse behind the CATCH property on South State Street. He stated that after a site visit, it was determined that the building was in rough shape, and the committee approved the demolition.

Mr. McConaha stated that he had noticed that there were barriers around the poultry barn next to the Rumford School. He questioned whether it was scheduled for demolition. The building is owned by the Concord School District.

Ms. Hengen asked if the school district was exempt from demolition review.

Mr. Woodward responded that he was not sure. It could be a remediation condition from the prior owner.

4d. Architectural Surveys on the Website:

No discussion.

4e. Request by William Upton that the City erect a sign to commemorate James M. Langley:

Mr. Woodward stated that he had spoken to Mr. Upton on the phone regarding his request. Mr. Upton thought that the public should be made aware of Mr. Langley's contributions to the City. He was involved with Concord Hospital, the Concord Monitor, and was active in planning and zoning issued in the city. Mr. Upton suggested a simple granite marker at the Clinton Street end of Langley Parkway.

A different version of the state historical markers or a larger version of the Heritage Sign were discussed.

Mr. Brooks asked who would pay for the sign.

Mr. Woodward responded that Mr. Upton indicated that he would help. Perhaps the commission could find a sponsor for the sign.

Ms. Brooks asked whose land the sign would be placed on.

Mr. Woodward responded that it would probably be placed in the City right-of-way.

Dr. Black, Ms. Hengen, and Ms. Brooks will form a committee for this sign project.

5. Dates, conferences, correspondence:

No discussion.

6. Other Business:

Mr. McConaha suggested that the commission members introduce themselves to their guest, Mr. Bryant Tolles. Each member gave an introduction and then Mr. Tolles did the same.

Chairperson Donovan stated that he has received a letter from the State of New Hampshire regarding upcoming repair work to be done on the I-93 bridge over Loudon Road. This letter had 8 questions that the City was asked to respond to. Chairperson Donovan read the questions aloud to the commission. The responses to all the questions were “no”.

Mr. Woodward stated that he has received a phone call from Town of Newmarket. They had questions regarding the City’s Demolition Delay Ordinance. They are interested in starting their own ordinance. Mr. McConaha stated that Portsmouth and Keene also have Demolition Delay Ordinances. Mr. Johnson suggested that the commission should promote our ordinance in a brochure or be involved in a training or workshop through the Municipal Association.

Mr. McConaha stated that he is still attending the school board task force meetings. This task force is analyzing building new school building versus renovating existing school buildings. He stated that the results should be available by the end of the year. There is still a lot of work to be done.

Chairperson Donovan stated that the commission would be actively involved in the third task force when it is formed. This task force will analyze the use of remaining school buildings.

Since there was no further business or discussion, a motion was made at 6:15 PM to adjourn the meeting by Ms. Brooks. Mr. McConaha seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

Denise Taschereau  
Administrative Specialist II  
Community Development Department