

HERITAGE COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES
October 2, 2008

The Heritage Commission held its regular monthly meeting in the City Council Chambers at 37 Green Street, Concord NH on Thursday, October 2, 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, Dr. Douglas Black, Robert Johnson, Marilyn Anne Fraser and James McConaha. City Planner Douglas Woodward and Fiscal Supervisor Denise Taschereau were also present.

Bryant Tolles, whose name has been submitted to City Council for appointment to the Heritage Commission as a regular member was also present for the meeting.

Absent from the meeting were Vice-Chairperson Frederick Richards, Carol Durgy Brooks and Elizabeth Durfee Hengen.

Chairperson Donovan elevated the alternate members to full members.

2. Minutes of September 4, 2008:

The commission considered the minutes of September 4, 2008. Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the minutes. Ms. Fraser 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 September 4, 2008 passed unanimously.

3. New Business:

Chairperson Donovan added the topic of demolition documentation to the agenda under new business.

He stated that he had accumulated many photographs of buildings that had been demolished. He believes that other members of the commission also have many photos. He will work with Vice-Chairperson Richards to develop a cataloging system for the photos. Once they have been cataloged, perhaps they can be stored in the Concord Room.

Ms. Fraser stated that she would speak to the Library Director about storing the photos in the Concord Room.

Mr. McConaha stated that he also has many photos. All the photos need to be identified.

4. Old Business:

4a. Historic Agricultural Resources Survey:

Chairperson Donovan stated that he had received an update from Ms. Hengen. The project is almost complete with 85% of the fieldwork done. A public tour of the properties was recommended for the spring. Should the commission apply for and receive a second grant, the commission could document the other barns that were discovered, but were not included in this survey.

4b. Heritage Sign Program:

No discussion.

4c. Demolition Review – Committee Report:

Mr. McConaha stated that a 1930's cape style house located at the corner of Silk Farm Road and Clinton Street was scheduled to be demolished. The house was owned by the Audubon Society and recently has been sold to the SPCA. It is scheduled to be demolished to create room for a new SPCA building to be built. Ms. Hengen has taken pictures of the house. Mr. McConaha felt that some people from the Audubon Society would like to see some of the architectural features of the house saved. He also thought that because of its location, the house could be easily moved. Mr. McConaha suggested that the commission communicate with the SPCA to encourage and explore alternatives to demolition.

Chairperson Donovan stated that he would speak to Vice-Chairperson Richards regarding the matter.

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 not heard from Mr. Upton regarding the sign. Dr. Black will contact Ms. Hengen and Ms. Brooks.

5. Dates, conferences, correspondence:

No discussion.

6. Other Business:

Mr. Woodward stated that a resolution had been passed by City Council giving the City Manager authorization to apply for \$25,000 CLG grant to be used to apply for the National Registry of the Blossom Hill Cemetery. He stated that the former Grants Administrator worked with the Friends of the Cemetery and General Services on this effort.

Mr. McConaha stated that he is still attending the school board task force meetings. He stated that he has a lot of documentation regarding the work that has been done by the task force.

Mr. Woodward stated that the documentation could be added to the agenda package for commission members to review.

Mr. McConaha stated that the focus of the task force right now is to renovate the Kimball School. It is undecided if the Morrill Building will be kept or demolished. All of the land that the School Board owes will be used in the plan.

Ms. Fraser stated that Matt Cashman of the Concord School District is hosting a weekly TV show regarding the issue Concord TV.

Mr. McConaha stated that he feels that it is the time document the buildings with their history and pictures. This information is needed to educate the public.

Mr. Johnson suggested that the information be obtained from the School District.

Mr. McConaha stated that he would speak to Ms. Hengen to see what information she had in her files.

Chairperson Donovan stated that Code Administration would contact the School District regarding the demolition of the meat packing building. There are hazardous materials inside that need to be disposed of properly.

Chairperson Donovan stated that fence is being painted of the Old North Cemetery as part of an Eagle Scout Project. He also stated that the Trolley Stop Project at White Park has been completed and that the ceremony will be next Thursday.

Mr. Woodward stated that he believes there is a person involved with the Penacook Historical Society is interested in joining the Commission. He will contact them. He also stated that the Planning Board is getting a few new members and that perhaps one of them will be interested in being the Planning Board Representative on the Heritage Commission.

Ms. Fraser requested that her cell phone 783-1349 be listed as her only contact phone number.

Mr. Johnson requested that his home address be listed on the contact sheet instead of his office address.

Mr. Johnson asked the status of the moving of the Isaac Hill Monument.

Mr. McConaha stated that Perry Brothers had offered to move the monument.

Mr. Johnson stated that the monument needs a base to be built at the new location.

There was some discussion regarding the location for the monument to be placed on Main Street.

Mr. Woodward stated that there was some concern about winter plowing around the monument.

Mr. Johnson stated that he would go to the City Manager to discuss the issue with him. Ms. Fraser and Mr. McConaha offered to go to that meeting as well.

Since there was no further business or discussion, a motion was made at 5:45 PM to adjourn the meeting by Mr. McConaha. Ms. Fraser seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

Denise Taschereau
Fiscal Supervisor
Community Development Department