

# HERITAGE COMMISSION

*December 4, 2008*

The Heritage Commission held its regular monthly meeting in the City Council Chambers at 37 Green Street, Concord, New Hampshire, on Thursday, December 4, 2008, at 4:30 p.m.

## 1. Call to Order and Seating of Alternates:

Chairperson Donovan called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m.

Present at the meeting were Chairperson Philip Donovan, James McConaha, Bryant Tolles, Vice Chair Frederick Richards, Carol Durgy Brooks, Elizabeth Durfee Hengen, and Robert Johnson who arrived at 4:43 p.m. City Planner Douglas Woodward and Administrative Specialist Donna Muir were also present.

Absent from the meeting were Dr. Douglas Black and Marilyn Fraser.

Chairperson Donovan elevated the alternate members to full members for the meeting.

## 2. Minutes of October 2, 2008:

The Commission considered the minutes of the November 6, 2008, Heritage Commission meeting. Mr. McConaha made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Mr. Richards seconded the motion. Chairperson Donovan asked if there was any discussion regarding the minutes. Ms. Brooks suggested that the draft minutes sent to the Commission electronically for review. Mr. Woodward stated that it would be possible and that the Planning Division would begin doing so. Ms. Hengen asked that the minutes reflect that the field work on the Historic Agricultural Resources Survey was nearly complete. There was no other discussion. The motion, as amended, to accept the minutes of the November 6, 2008, Heritage Commission meeting passed unanimously.

## 3. New Business:

Matt Walsh, Assistant for Special Projects for the City of Concord, requested input from the Heritage Commission regarding the possible sale of a watering trough located at 439 North State Street. The property is currently on the market by the City of Concord, and Matt has received inquiries from individuals who would like to acquire the trough. There had been a spring that fed into the trough, but the City of Concord removed the pipe, as the spring had become contaminated.

Ms. Hengen stated that she had found another trough by the Hood plant further south on North State Street.

Mr. McConaha asked if the trough would have to be moved temporarily during the reconstruction of Fisherville Road and the bus stop area. Mr. Walsh responded that the trough is

currently located in the back portion of the right-of-way and would have to be relocated temporarily while the right-of-way area was being expanded.

Mr. Johnson asked if there was any damage to the trough. Mr. Walsh stated that it appeared to be in good shape. He also stated that he had found a number of other troughs in the Pembroke area, which date from the early 1800s through 1880. Mr. Tolles stated that he has seen watering troughs in many places throughout the city. Mr. Richards theorized that the troughs were probably used to water the horses used for pulling the trolleys.

Ms. Hengen stated that because of the use of local granite to make the troughs and that the troughs speak to a different period of local history, she would like to see the City of Concord keep them and find a way to focus public attention on them. She also would like to see the troughs remain located in the same area and context in which they are found. Mr. McConaha stated that he agreed with Ms. Hengen and believes the troughs, much like the carriage posts and steps, help to preserve part of the history of the City of Concord.

Mr. Walsh said that he would speak with the Engineering Division to see if while they are fixing the bus stop they could incorporate the watering trough into the design. Mr. Woodward suggested that the trough could be relocated to the nearby Town Pound, which has already been upgraded. Chairman Donovan stated that he thought that keeping the troughs were the right thing to do.

Ms. Hengen said it could be used as a good public relations tool for the city, along with the hitching posts and mounting blocks. Mr. Tolles suggested that the troughs could be used as landscaping tools. Mr. Walsh said that he felt that the City may rely on Groundwork Concord to maintain the trough.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to preserve and/or retain the watering trough. Mr. Tolles seconded the motion. Chairman Donovan asked if there was any further discussion regarding the motion. There was no discussion. The motion to preserve and/or retain the watering troughs passed unanimously.

[Mr. Walsh left the meeting at 5:00 p.m.]

Chairman Donovan handed out copies of a letter received from the NH Division of Historical Resources stating that the Old North Cemetery had been entered in the National Register of Historic Places, on November 9, 2008.

Mr. Johnson received a letter from Tom Aspell, City Manager regarding the relocation of the Governor Issac Hill monument. Mr. McConaha stated that Carlos Baia, Assistant City Manager, was concerned with the monument being located in the middle of the sidewalk on the bump-out. One of the proposals was to place the monument along the south wall at Eagle Square with a sign indicating that the Hill house was actually located away from the site, and another sign placed closer to the actual site of the former Hill house.

Mr. Woodward stated that he had done some research as to where the Governor Hill house stood and found that it was possible that the house was located where the commercial building now stands just south of Eagle Square. Mr. Woodward also talked of the fire of 1850/51, which resulted in the current brick buildings replacing the wooden structures that had been located in that area. Ms. Hengen said that there was a map of the 1851 downtown area which listed the names of the property owners that could be used to pinpoint the site of the Hill house.

Mr. Johnson asked if there was any rush in moving the monument from its current location. Mr. McConaha thought that Perry Brothers Monuments should be contacted to see if they would remove the monument from its present location and do the necessary cleaning and restoration work while keeping it at their business site throughout the winter.

4. Old Business:

Chairman Donovan received a letter from Susan LaDuc of Gallagher, Callahan & Gartrell, PC, stating that the Laconia Savings Bank project was moving ahead.

4a. Historic Agricultural Resources Survey:

Roger Hawk, of Hawk Planning Resources, and Ms. Hengen consultants for the Historic Agricultural Resources Survey, indicated that the purpose of the survey was to record all agricultural complexes within the City of Concord having more than ten acres of land with surviving outbuildings and agricultural landscaping. They surveyed 38 properties for the project. One of the properties included in the survey sat on less than ten acres of land, but housed a landmark barn. Both Ms. Hengen and Mr. Hawk were pleased with the enthusiasm of the property owners for the survey, and many stated they would be happy to host tours. The focus of the report to the Heritage Commission was to provide an insight as to what was found in the survey and to discuss plans for the proposed public forum. The presentation included findings on a variety of barn types – English, Gable, and Gambrel; information about state agricultural complexes; data on other outbuildings, such as poultry houses, blacksmith shops, milk houses, ice houses, and corn cribs; and information about agricultural landscaping.

Mr. Tolles asked if Ms. Hengen and Mr. Hawk thought to include the carriage houses that are located within the City of Concord. Mr. Johnson stated that a barn would retain its significance whether acreage was there or not. He felt the survey was a great start but should include other barns and carriage houses. Ms. Hengen stated that there would have been far too many properties, so they limited the project to intact farmsteads on ten or more acres. Mr. Hawk stated that they began with more than 600 properties and narrowed it down to about 40 or so. They have kept a list of the other properties, so the information would be available for future projects. Mr. McConaha stated that the focus of the project was agricultural.

Mr. Richards suggested that barn owners should be encouraged to continue on their own with research and share the information with the Commission. Ms. Brooks suggested that if any of the owners did the research, they could apply to the Heritage Commission for a sign.

Ms. Hengen and Mr. Hawk provided ideas for the structuring of the public forum and suggested that the agenda be ordered as follows: overview of the project; a brief description of Concord's farming history; types of barns and range of outbuildings; ways for individuals to find out more information; a question and answer section; and an information session about obtaining mini-grants for preservation, and other resources available.

Mr. Johnson suggested having a large map of the city be available with each barn covered in the survey tagged, and also inviting public forum attendees to tag their barn, outbuilding, or carriage house on the map. This information could be useful for future survey work.

Mr. Richards stated that the audience to target would be farm owners encountered through the project, as well as others who were eliminated from the survey because of the size of their property. He also suggested that the Preservation Alliance be involved with the forum.

Chairman Donovan thought the *Concord Insider* may be interested in doing an article on the project. Mr. Hawk suggested that perhaps they would be interested in doing a primer on Concord barns. Chairman Donovan volunteered to contact the *Concord Insider* to provide possible advertising for the project and the upcoming public forum.

Ms. Hengen stated that it would be best to hold the forum in February or March, which would fall during the farmers' quiet season. Possible dates were suggested. She felt it would be best to hold it on a Thursday evening from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., in Council Chambers. The date of Thursday, March 5, 2009, was selected.

A number of venues for the public forum were suggested, and Mr. McConaha volunteered to work with Mr. Hengen and Mr. Hawk on finding a suitable place.

Chairman Donovan thanked Ms. Hengen and Mr. Hawk for all their work on the project thus far.

Chairman Donovan wished all a Happy Holiday. Since there was no further business or discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Hengen at 6:18 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Richards seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

Donna Muir  
Administrative Specialist  
Planning Division