

HERITAGE COMMISSION

Draft Minutes

June 4, 2009

The Heritage Commission held its regular monthly meeting in the City Council Chambers at 37 Green Street, Concord, New Hampshire, on Thursday, June 4, 2009, at 4:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Seating of Alternates:

Chairperson Donovan called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

Present at the meeting were Chairperson Philip Donovan, James McConaha, Bryant Tolles, Gerard Blanchette, Dr. Douglas Black, Robert V. Johnson II, Carol Durgy Brooks, and Vice Chair Frederick Richards. Administrative Specialist Donna Muir was also present.

Absent from the meeting were Commission Members Marilyn Fraser and Elizabeth Durfee Hengen, and City Planner Douglas Woodward.

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

2. Minutes of May 7, 2009:

The Commission considered the minutes of the May 7, 2009, Heritage Commission meeting. Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, and Mr. Blanchette seconded the motion. Chairperson Donovan asked if there was any discussion regarding the minutes. The motion to accept the minutes of the May 7, 2009 meeting passed unanimously.

3. Old Business:

2009 Certified Local Government Grant:

Vice Chair Richards provided the Commission with an overview of the 2009 Certified Local Government Grant application, which is currently awaiting the City Manager's signature. The application is due to the NH Division of Historical Resources on Friday, June 5, 2009, by 4:00 p.m. The grant application requests \$25,000 to hire a professional preservation consultant to survey the school buildings in Concord and Penacook to determine eligibility for the National Historic Register. There are twelve schools within the Concord School District; however, only eleven schools will be included in the grant, as the Dewey School building was previously determined eligible for inclusion on the National Historical Register in 2008.

Proposed Demolition of the Huntress & Lodge Buildings:

On Monday, June 1, 2009, the Demolition Review Subcommittee met with representatives of the State Hospital and the State Public Works departments to discuss the proposed demolition of the Huntress & Lodge buildings. It was decided that the Huntress building would be preserved,

stabilized, and maintained until the state comes up with a use for the building. The Lodge building will be demolished as it is no longer conducive to reuse due to excessive mold.

Chairperson Donovan thanked Vice Chair Richards for his work on these two projects. Vice Chair Richards stated that the development of the demolition review process in Concord has been helpful in saving a number of buildings, including the Rolfe Barn in Penacook. He thanked Mr. McConaha for his work in ensuring the demolition review process was followed in accordance with RSA 227 C-9 for the Huntress and Lodge properties.

[Mr. Richards left the meeting at 4:44 p.m.]

Davis Square Monument:

The Davis Square monument, which sits in front of the Maple Grove Cemetery, needs to be moved to enable the City Engineering Division to complete its design work on the Route 3 - North State Street / Fisherville Road, Lake Street to Bog Road, Roadway Improvements.

Ed Roberge, City Engineer, was introduced to the Commission and discussed the City's plans to reconfigure the intersection at Sewalls Falls and Fisherville Roads, necessitating the re-location of the Davis Square monument. Mr. Roberge stated that the monument will be removed from its concrete base and a new base will be poured approximately eight feet northerly toward the cemetery gate. Incorporated in the design at the new location of the monument will be a semi-circular landscaped walkway and new sidewalks. Mr. Roberge doesn't anticipate that the new location of the monument will impede access to the cemetery, nor will it affect the fence surrounding the cemetery. The Commission agreed that the new area for the Davis Square monument was appropriate.

Isaac Hill Monument:

The Commission asked Mr. Roberge whether the City's Engineering Division would be able to assist in the relocation of the Isaac Hill monument, which is currently located at the Goodwill Store on Loudon Road. The Commission explained that Perry Brothers Monument on North State Street was willing to clean up the monument; however, they had yet to move the monument to their business location. Mr. Johnson stated that his research on Isaac Hill continues and he hopes to advise the Commission as to the proper location for the monument. He stated that he believes Mr. Hill's house was diagonally across from the Merrimack County Savings Bank on Main Street. Mr. Johnson stated that he would email or fax the authorization to remove the monument from the Goodwill Store to Mr. Roberge, who said the Engineering Division may be able to assist the Heritage Commission with the moving of the monument.

Directional and Mileage Sign at Sewall's Falls Road:

Mr. Roberge was asked by the Commission about the fate of the directional and mileage sign located at the intersection of Sewalls Falls and Fisherville Road. Mr. Roberge said that the sign is scheduled for replacement because it doesn't meet the current DOT standards. Ms. Brooks asked whether the sign was an historic marker and stated that the location of the sign was

indicative of the area prior to the interstate being built. Mr. Roberge stated that the sign dates to the 1960s or 1970s. Mr. McConaha stated that the State maintains a database of signs, which may be able to pinpoint the age of this particular sign. Dr. Black asked whether there was a waiver that could be applied for in order to keep the sign in its location. Ms. Brooks suggested that reflective striping could be added to the sign and that the sign could be moved so that it does not interfere with the current work being done in the area. Mr. Roberge said that he would reach out to the NH Department of Transportation to see if a waiver for the sign could be obtained, and if so, he would put the sign on a new post, which would be painted black.

Troughs Located on North State Street:

Mr. Roberge stated that the two troughs located on North State Street – the first located near the Hood plant and the second located near the corner of Lake Street – would be incorporated into the design plans for Phase 3 of the Route 3 Corridor Project. It is the Commission’s desire to leave the troughs where they are currently located. Mr. Roberge stated that the trough near Lake Street would remain where it is, but the one near the Hood plant would need to be moved slightly to keep it out of the roadway. The Engineering Division would be designing the project in house and Mr. Roberge will provide the designs to the Heritage Commission once they are complete.

[Mr. Roberge left the meeting at 5:10 p.m.]

Commemorating James M. Langley:

Dr. Black stated that he would like to invite Mr. William Upton to the July Heritage Commission meeting. Mr. Upton would like to discuss plans for a commemoration to James M. Langley. It was agreed that this item would be on the July agenda.

4. *New Business:*

Heritage Commission Sign Program:

Ms. Brooks stated that there is a sign request pending. The applicant had been hospitalized, so that further process on this sign application had been halted. She stated that she would follow-up and report back to the Commission.

There was no further business or discussion. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

Donna Muir
Administrative Specialist
Planning Division