

HERITAGE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2014

The Heritage Commission held its regular monthly meeting in the City Council Chambers, City Hall Annex, 37 Green Street, Concord, New Hampshire, on Thursday, March 6, 2014, at 4:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Seating of Alternates:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Present at the meeting were Chair Phil Donovan, and Members Carol Brooks, Robert Johnson, Bryant Tolles and Marilyn Fraser. Senior Planner Becky Hebert and Administrative Specialist Patricia Murray were also present.

2. E-mail from Dr. Mary Deal:

Chair Donovan read the following email dated February 28, 2014 from Mary Deal regarding the February 6, 2014 minutes.

Dear Ms. Murray, Mr. Henninger and Mr. Shurtleff,

I have a concern regarding the minutes of the Heritage Commission meeting of February 6, 2014.

I have been somewhat misquoted. I would like to have the minutes corrected before they are approved at the March 4th, 2014, Heritage Commission meeting.

Ms. Murray, perhaps you could revise the draft of the minutes before the meeting.

If not, could you or Mr. Henninger or Mr. Shurleff, please bring this to the attention of Mr. Phil Donovan and the other members of the Heritage Commission. I do not have their email addresses.

I am referring to this statement: "After some conversation, Dr. Deal stated that she is not opposed to the new building but she is opposed to the proposed site of the building."

This statement does not clearly reflect my views.

I AM opposed to "the new building" plans that have been presented by Mr. Gill as drawn up by the H. L. Turner group. I do not like the design of the building. Moreover, I do not agree with the locations proposed by Mr. Gill.

What I meant by my comments at the meeting in February was that I was not opposed to their being a skate house....but I only want a skate house if it were located in the same place as the current one, and only if it were a modest skate house.

I would like the City of Concord to undertake a thorough re-assessment of the current skate house, with an analysis of the feasibility and cost of renovating it.

If, and only if, the current skate house can not be renovated, then I would like to have a modest skate house built in the same location.

I am adamantly opposed to a large multipurpose/skate house. I do not believe that White Park should have a multipurpose building that would involve being the site of events such as

weddings, conferences, etc. This is not in accord with the historic nature of the park, with Armenia White's intentions for the park, or with the purpose/design of Charles Eliot, the noted landscape architect.

I am adamantly opposed to any new building on the periphery of the pond that is in any location other than in essentially the current location.

I believe that any building around the periphery of the pond would need to be designed in such a way as to deal with the very real problem of the wet land around the periphery of the pond. I would rather have no skate house at all than one which would obstruct the historic landscape of White Park.

I believe that it is our duty as citizens of Concord and as custodians of White Park to preserve its historic character, landscape and vistas.

The historic landscape of the White Park would be destroyed if a building were erected along the periphery of the pond near White St., or on the Washington St side of the pond., or anywhere along the periphery between the pond and the hockey rink or the baseball field. The vista from those three sides of the pond would be destroyed by the presence of any building.

The only logical place to have a skate house is in more or less the current location. That location does not destroy the historic landscape of the park.

I know I may sound like a broken record, but my views are supported by hundreds of hours of research into the history of White Park, principles of historic preservation, and the implications of its being listed on the National Register of Historic Places. I have also done research into the environmental impact of building along the periphery of the park.

I know that the people who serve on the Heritage Commission are committed to helping Concord preserve its historic landmarks, buildings, and landscapes.

I am hoping that the Heritage Commission will continue to monitor any proposals which may be put forth by Mr. Gill or others regarding changes to White Park, not just the currently proposed multipurpose building/skate house, but also any other plans that would impinge upon the historic character of White Park.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Mary R. Deal, MD

603-738-8602

maryrdeal@aol.com

The Commission recognized Dr. Deal's concerns. There was consensus to retain the minutes as written.

3. Approval of Minutes of the February 6, 2014 meeting:

The Commission considered the minutes of the February 6, 2014 Heritage Commission Meeting. Dr. Tolles stated his name was omitted from the Call to Order.

Mr. Johnson moved to approve the February 6, 2014 minutes with the addition of Dr. Tolles' name in the Call to Order. Ms. Brooks seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

4. New Business

a. Annual Election of Officers

The Chair turned the meeting over to Ms. Hebert to proceed with the nominations for the Chair of the Heritage Commission. Ms. Hebert opened the floor to receive nominations for Chair. Ms. Brooks nominated Phil Donovan for another term as Chair, and Ms. Fraser seconded the nomination. As there were no further nominations, Ms. Hebert closed the nominations and the Heritage Commission members voted unanimously for Mr. Donovan to continue to serve as Chair of the Heritage Commission. Ms. Hebert then turned the meeting back over to Mr. Donovan.

The Chair opened the floor to receive nominations for Vice Chair. Ms. Fraser nominated Fred Richards for another term as Vice Chair and Mr. Jaques seconded the nomination. As there were no further nominations, the Chair closed the nominations and the Heritage Commission members voted unanimously for Mr. Richards to continue to serve as Vice Chair of the Heritage Commission.

b. Update on CLG – Carriage House Study.

Ms. Hebert stated that she received an email from Mae Williams. Ms. Williams reported that the windshield survey is completed. Ms. Hebert will distribute to the Commission by drop box. Ms. Williams would like to attend a meeting to present her findings thus far. Ms. Hebert will send an invitation for the April meeting.

c. Report by Member Richards in regards to NH Division of Historical Resources study of demolition review.

Mr. Richards was not present. Tabled.

d. Sewalls Falls Bridge reconstruction - project mitigation

Mr. Roberge updated the Commission on the Sewalls Falls Bridge Mitigation Project. Mr. Roberge stated he would like to see a vision of projects by the April City Council meeting. Chair Donovan scheduled a work session for the Commission on Thursday, March 20 at 4:30.

5. Regular business

a. Demolition Review – Committee Report –

Chair Donovan stated that there is some action on the Gas House and that the Baker Eddy property is moving along. There is a potential demo on Fisherville Road near Thirty Pines; an existing ranch will be demolished to make way for the proposed Dollar General Store.

b. Heritage Sign Program

No update.

c. Update on Demolition Permit funding
No update.

6. Informational Items

None this month.

7. Any other business to come before the Commission

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Ms. Brooks moved to adjourn the meeting. M. Jaques seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment at 5:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Murray
Administrative Specialist