

HERITAGE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2015

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 5, 2015, 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, Richard Jaques, Bryant Tolles, Richard Woodfin, Robert Johnson and Fred Richards. City Planner Nancy Larson and Administrative Specialist Patricia Murray were also present.

2. Approval of Minutes of the February 5, 2015 meeting:

The Commission considered the minutes of the February 5, 2015 Heritage Commission Meeting.

Mr. Johnson moved to approve the February 5, 2015 minutes as written. Ms. Brooks seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. New Business

a. NHDOT Project Mitigation; proposed parking lot expansion on Stickney Avenue

Jill Edelman and Don Lyford, NHDOT, were present. They are present to discuss mitigation possibilities for the Stickney Avenue parking lot expansion. Mr. Johnson asked for a recap of the presentation from the February meeting. Ms. Edelman gave an overview of the project and discussed the three buildings slated for initial removal. Ms. Edelman stated the buildings are all low profile, single story and utility buildings at the north end of the complex. She stated the buildings were constructed when the complex expanded around 1950. She stated that there would probably not be any materials worth salvaging from these three buildings but it is worth it to look into. Also, the three buildings have no historical events justifying a monument. Ms. Edelman stated the H-shaped building, which was constructed in 1928 and expanded in 1948, is called out as being the more significant building in the district. Mr. Johnson asked which buildings would be demolished next. Mr. Lyford responded that they are looking now at widening interstate 93 in Bow/Concord. Ms. Edelman reiterated that right now the parking needs have to be met and would like to look at ways to mitigate the loss of the three buildings proposed to be demolished.

The Commission asked what a typical mitigation for a similar project was. Ms. Edelman stated this is not typical because part of the site will be taken down now and the rest will likely be demolished sometime in the future. Discussion ensued regarding a photo project being compiled to document the history of the site and the men who worked there. It was decided, after some conversation, that mitigation will be a collection of photos and research on the three buildings being removed now which can be compiled into a larger project as the remaining buildings are removed.

b. Discussion on changes to the Demolition Review Ordinance (Article 26-9)

Chair Donovan reported that not much has happened since the last Heritage Commission meeting. A meeting with Craig Walker, Zoning Administrator, needs to be set up. A discussion ensued regarding having interested Heritage Commission members appointed as alternates to the Demolition Review Committee. Ms. Larson will check the feasibility of this and if having a quorum would present any problems.

Further discussion regarding the time limit ensued. Chair Donovan stated he had not had a chance to speak with Councilor Shurtleff regarding City Council thoughts about extending the time limit for demolition permitting.

c. Tour of the Walker School/Binnie renovations

Mr. Johnson will arrange the tour since all schedules have been confirmed.

d. NH Preservation Alliance tour guide assistance.

Mr. Jaques and Mr. Woodfin agreed to volunteer for the April 17th event.

4. Regular business

a. Demolition Review – Committee Report

No update.

b. Heritage Sign Program

Ms. Brooks presented a prototype of the sign that will be available through the Heritage Commission Sign Program at the Concord 250 celebration in June. The Commission was very pleased with the sign. Ms. Brooks will present the concept to the Concord 250 Committee at their next meeting.

c. Update on Demolition Permit funding

No update.

d. Report by Mr. Richards in regards to NH Division of Historical Resources study of demolition review

Mr. Richards distributed a report.

5. Informational Items

a. Status of the Gasholder building roof repairs.

Chair Donovan stated he has yet to be able to reach Mike Licata with no reply. Ms. Larson will email a contact to Chair Donovan.

6. Any other business to come before the Commission

- Mr. Woodfin advised the Commission of his visit to the Concord Room at the Library. His company is working to organize the archive records.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Jaques moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Richards seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Donovan adjourned the meeting at 6:11 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Larson
City Planner