

Heritage Commission
New Ipswich, New Hampshire
Meeting Minutes

Date: July 26, 2017

Present: Fran Atchison, Mark Hopkins, Carmen Madrid

Absent:: Jim Coffey, Stan Long, Jay Hopkins (Selectman Representative)

Next Meeting: August 23, 2017

Call to Order

The Heritage Commission meeting was called to order at 6:15pm at the Town Office.

Minutes from the June 28th meeting were read. The minutes were approved by Mark and seconded by Carmen.

Discussion/Action Items

The Heritage Commission is first on the agenda for the upcoming Board of Selectmen meeting on August 8, 2017 at New Ipswich Town Hall. The meeting begins at 6:00 pm. Two of our items will be addressed. These are:

- Old Town Hall Restoration – Mark and Fran were informed that an RFP is required to begin the process of selecting a contractor and releasing the funds to repair the foundation of the Old Town Hall. Fran submitted an RFP to the Town Administrator. The RFP will be addressed at the upcoming Town of New Ipswich Board of Selectmen meeting on August 8, 2017.
- Incorporation Date for Town of New Ipswich – At our June 28 meeting, Jim Coffey suggested the Heritage Commission address the town's date of incorporation with the Board of Selectmen to determine if the town should identify and celebrate an alternate 250th anniversary. This item will also be on the agenda for the August 8, 2017 Board of Selectmen meeting.

Fund Raising for Heritage Commission Projects – it was confirmed that the Heritage Commission, as part of the Town of New Ipswich, is able to fund-raise without having to form a 501(c)(3) specifically for the Heritage Commission's work. Joanne Meshna, Town Administrator, referred our question to the NH Municipal Association. The email response included the following statement "This statute (RSA 31:19) unequivocally allows the town to fund raise". Fran forwarded the email to all Heritage Commission members.

The commission discussed methods of fund raising, both project specific and general. Fund raising could include events, house plaques. We discussed the the Old Town Hall as an example of a project specific fund raiser. When the 'go-ahead' is given to begin repair/restoration work on

the Old Town Hall, the commission will have some tangible activity to share with the community. Publicizing this will hopefully generate interest in the Heritage Commission and enable us to communicate on-going activities. Carmen suggested a small scale 'kick-off' event to inform and engage members of our community. This could be used to raise both awareness and funds.

Fran will talk with the Town Administrator about recording monies raised and allocated specifically for the Heritage Commission: is there or should there be a separate account number, etc.

Increasing town-wide visibility of Heritage Commission - In addition to our first communication out regarding restoration activity on the Old Town Hall, we discussed actively using the town's website for publicizing Heritage Commission information. Additional vehicles for communication were discussed. Fran shared a front page article from the July 25, 2017 Monadnock Ledger-Transcript about the Antrim Grange and the restoration efforts. There is a 'Life in New Ipswich' Facebook page we could tap into. We agreed to search out possible communication opportunities including those on social media.

Adjournment

Mark moved to adjourn the meeting and Carmen seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 23, 2017 at 6:00 pm