

HOOKSETT HERITAGE COMMISSION**Tuesday, July 12, 2022****Hooksett Town Hall****35 Main St.****Council Chambers****Meeting Minutes**

Attendance: Commission members: Tony Lacasse, chair, John Giotis, and Gloria Levasseur. Members of other town historical organizations: Jim Sullivan, Ruth Knowles, Vickie Desharnais, Bob Thinnes, Barbara Thinnes. One member of the public: Shephanie Partington

Tony called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Introductions were made.

Public input was brought forth by Stephanie Partington who is a photographer working on a project to chronicle structures in New Hampshire that are 200 years or older. Her focus is on buildings in Manchester, Hooksett, and Bow. In addition to photographing the structures, she is also researching stories about these historic buildings. Bob Thinnes from Hooksett's Historical Society has sent Stephanie a list of Hooksett's historic buildings and their locations.

John moved to approve the minutes of June 14, 2022. Gloria seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0-0.

There are no outstanding invoices at this time.

Joint meeting with all historical organizations: A meeting date has not yet been set. Tony will schedule a meeting to be held in August.

Budget Request for Town: Jordan drafted a proposed budget for 2023-2024. Jim Sullivan suggested a proposed budget should be submitted as soon as possible to Christine Tewksbury in Hooksett's Finance Office. Ruth Knowles asked how needed maintenance of the Head School will be paid for in the future. Jim Sullivan explained expenses should be provided by the Head School [organization?] to the Heritage Commission, at which point Tony, as chair of the Heritage Commission, would submit to Town Manager Andre Garron and Hooksett's DPW to be paid out of the town's building maintenance line. Operational costs, including those related to programming, Jim said, should be added to the Heritage Commission's budget, noting they are designated for Head School expenses. Bob Thinnes shared that the Historical Society is looking to hire an intern and proposed that the Heritage Commission consider involving this individual in their work. Related to working together, Tony shared that he would like to have a member of the Historical Society be an official member of the Heritage Commission, as well. Members of the Heritage Commission agreed to start with the current year's budget of \$2,500 and add \$500 for Head School operational expenses. John moved to approve a proposed budget of \$3,000 for the year 2023-2024. Gloria seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0-0.

The library will work with Head School to try to recover the organization's password for its Facebook page.

Lambert's Park Dedication and Sign: Tony has been researching and finding information about the property. First cotton mill to be built in New Hampshire. Has not found verification. Hooksett was home to a lot of native American tribes. Verified through registry of deeds that Fred Lambert did own the property and was the lead on making the area a park. Prior to, it was ruins from the mills and he helped clean it up and make it a park. Tony found they used to have canoe races and would like to bring that back as part of the dedication and do this as part of Old Home Day. Host a tribute canoe race in tangent with Old Home Day. They were held in the 70s. Tony would like to have multiple signs, four signs, each for a period of time, a walking history, similar to what is at the Head's Pond Trail and at the Hooksett Riverwalk Trail. Parks and Rec have cost estimates for signage. Discussion about having experienced crew/rowers. Suggestion made to focus on having the signs done. Maybe pushing out a dedication to October, especially to coincide with Heritage Month.

Third Cheever Painting: No update at this time.

1790 Marker: No update at this time.

Heritage Commission Files: Tony has been reviewing files held at the library. Discussion was had about the library's current digitization project. Bob would like to see voting records digitized.

Bench dedication to Kathie Northrup: John shared the estimated cost of having the plaque made of \$220 dollars for plaque. Half of that amount has already been paid, bench 500 dollars. Discussion of Veteran's Park. Jim shared that Kathie was concerned about too many markers in the park that do not pertain to veterans.

Granite Monument: The Belisle family, who operated a quarry on Hackett Hill, has donated a New Hampshire granite monument to the town. Tony suggested it be located near Old Town Hall right after the Fire Station, which may also be a good location to place the bench memorializing Kathie Northrup. Tony suggested this area be turned into a "heritage complex" and be revitalized by removing current parking spaces, beautifying the space with plants, and having markers that provide visitors the opportunity to learn about local history. The commission would need to contact Dig Safe for a cost estimate to do the work to ensure no underground lines would be affected.

Demolition Regulations: A review of the process for requesting a change to the demolition regulations was had. Brittany will work with Tony to edit a copy of the current regulations, which she will then email to Town Planner Nicholas Williams and Code Enforcement Officer Dana Pendergast, who will then submit the request to the Planning Board, who will hold a public hearing.

Donation of Declaration of Independence painting: No update. Discussion was had about the Heritage Commission accepting real property and once received, where it is stored and presented.

John moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:19. Gloria seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0-0.