

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

Attendance: Commission members: Tony Lacasse, Chair; Gloria Levasseur

Other town representatives: Andre Garron, Hooksett Town Administrator; Dana Pendergast, Hooksett Code Enforcement Officer; Ruth Knowles, School Marms; Vickie Desharnais, Bicentennial Committee; Bob Thinnies, Historical Society

One member of the public: Barbara Thinnies, Mr. Levasseur

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

There was no public input.

A vote to approve the July 12, 2022 minutes will be taken at the next meeting.

There are no outstanding invoices at this time.

Joint meeting with all historical organizations: Tony will send a meeting invitation to committees this week. He extended the invite to the Bicentennial Committee, as well.

Budget Request for Town: Tony will update the budget request to reflect the \$3,000 approved at the last meeting and send to Christine Tewksbury in Hooksett's Finance Department.

Lambert's Park Dedication and Sign: Tony has done another site visit of the park and recommends two signs, one near the Lambert's Park sign and the other at the area where the mills once stood. Tony and Bob Thinnies will work to create a condensed format of the historical information gathered to put on the signs. Tony has spoken with Parks and Recreation about having the signs placed by October, in time for Heritage Month. Tony would like to have verbiage done by the end of August so the sign company will have September to create the signs. It is not yet known what the turnaround time is to have the signs made.

Third Cheever Painting: No update at this time.

1790 Marker: Jordan spruced up the area. This marker on Route 3, formerly State Coach Road, historically showed travelers the distance to the center of Chester.

Heritage Commission Files: Tony will bring files to future meetings so the commission can go through them together. Bob suggested having Diane Valade attend meetings and support the work of inventorying records, as she worked closely with Kathie Northrup, who previously organized the records. Vickie will invite Diane to future meetings.

Bench dedication for Kathie Northrup: Tony had previously recommended the Corner of Main Street and Riverside Street as a possible location for the bench. Gloria wondered if the area at the Robie's Store-side of the bridge where another bench already exists may be a good location. Gloria suggested this may be an easier spot to place the bench, since it's already cleared, and would provide easy access for those walking across the bridge. She also suggested the granite monument be placed in the same area, creating a small park. This land is owned by the Robie family, from whom permission would need to be requested. If the original location at Main and Riverside streets were to be considered, Andre shared that paving is usually contracted out; it is yet to be known whether the town has the equipment to remove pavement currently at that location. Andre shared the procedure would be as follows: make final decision of where bench will be placed, the town would then assess the area, then Dig Safe would evaluate the location, and finally the town would support the transportation and ensure strong structural placement of the bench. The town needs to know what is needed to install the bench permanently, then permitting would need to be done; if location is in the Historic District, additional permits may be required. Dana Pendergast and Ben Berthiaume, DPW director, would be the two individuals to speak with about what permits are required. There may be a need to involve Bruce Thomas, town engineer. Roger Belisle has the equipment needed and is willing to transport the bench, and may also help with the transportation and installation of the granite monument. Tony will connect individuals needed for the project to coordinate efforts. Gloria will reach out to Roger to see when he is available for a meeting and Tony will reach out to others.

Demolition Regulations: Recommended changes under 17.05 section 1 are as follows: change five (5) business days to fourteen (14) business days. Brittany will draft the recommended change to the demolition regulations and email this 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. The Heritage Commission is in charge of posting a notice of public hearings in two different locations, often one at town hall and another at the Library. It will also be posted on the town's website. This follows NH RSA law. Brittany will share the RSA with Tony.

Dana shared there is an option for the Heritage Commission to work with him and the owners of historic properties that are scheduled for demolition so that Commission members may take photos of the exterior and interior of the buildings to document significant characteristics. Dana confirmed that the proposed 14 business days under section 17.05 includes the time to make the decision and document historical significance. It was suggested that having a list of areas and/or specific properties that the Heritage Commission identify as historically significant would be useful for the Land Use officers to have. Vickie shared that Jim Sullivan is working on a list of homes that are 150 years or older. Tony will reach out to Jim.

Heritage Commission Membership: Tony would like to have additional members on the commission so as to allow for having a Demolition Review Committee, as well as other small focus groups. Tony asked those present in the room to think of and recommend at least one person who would be an asset and would enjoy helping the Heritage Commission, and to let Tony know their name(s) by or at the next meeting. Vickie offered to post about the membership opportunity through the Bicentennial Facebook page to help reach a wider audience.

Tony asked if there are particular projects those in attendance would like to work on. Ruth shared that she is

interested in expanding programming at Head School. She would also like to explore the possibility of having a composting toilet there, so that a portable toilet is not needed for every event. Vickie would also like to support efforts at Head School. Gloria would like to work on revitalization efforts of the village. Barbara plans to continue to support Bob with Historical Society efforts and is also interested in helping out with Main Street revitalization. Bob's focus is the Historical Society and is willing to help as much as possible with other projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:26