

**HOOKSETT HERITAGE COMMISSION****Tuesday, September 13, 2022****Hooksett Town Hall****35 Main St.****Council Chambers****Meeting Minutes**

Attendance: Commission members: Yolande Cotnoir-Walsh, Member; Jordan Davis, Member; John Giotas, Member; Tony Lacasse, Chair; Gloria Levasseur, Member

Other town representatives: Vickie Desharnais, Bicentennial Committee

Jordan called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

There was no public input.

Tony moved to approve the minutes of both the July 12, 2022 and August 9, 2022 meetings. Gloria seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0-2.

Invoices: John made a motion to approve the expense of \$320 to John Porter for his New Hampshire Humanities presentation at the library on September 22 at 6:30pm, The History of Agriculture as Told by Barns. Tony seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-0.

John inquired about accessing the Heritage Commission files on Kathie Northrup's computer. Tony has been in touch with Kathie's niece Judy Prindiville about these files. Judy wishes to have a trusted individual sort through the files on the computer and share the appropriate documents with the Heritage Commission. Tony recommended Hooksett Library Assistant Director: Technology & Facilities Management Mark Glisson be asked to support this effort. Brittany will send a message to Mark and Tony about connecting on this project.

Joint meeting with all historical organizations: Another meeting has not been scheduled. Tony believes a meeting may not be necessary at this time, as all historic groups continue to maintain communication with one another.

Budget Request for Town: Tony will update the budget request for 2023-2024, using a template that Jordan drafted and shared as a Google Doc. Tony will send the updated budget request to Christine Tewksbury.

Lambert's Park Dedication and Sign: Tony shared some of the information about Lambert's Park that he has found during his research on the history of the area. He noted that the only state-owned historic marker in Hooksett is at Lambert's Park where the canal system once was; all other historic markers in Hooksett are owned by the town. Tony reiterated his proposal to have two signs, the first summarizing the history of the park. Some of the information gathered and potentially of use for this sign include: The park was originally called the A.J. Lambert Riverside Park. A neighbor has a sign from the park when it was named this. The park was dedicated in 1982 and expanded in 1985. Fred Lambert wanted to clean up the area, make it accessible for the residents of Hooksett, and conserve the area next to the river. Fred Lambert coordinated with Dundee

Mills and Town Officials to have the Town purchase the property so that it could be made into a public park. The second sign Tony proposes will be about the Dundee Mills. The signs will play homage to both histories (the mills and how the park came to be). Tony requested help putting the information gathered into concise wording for the signs. Jordan offered to help. The Commission will seek cost estimates from two companies: Fossil Industries, which made the signs along the Riverwalk Trail in Hooksett (for two signs several years ago, the cost was approximately \$2,000). Yolande will share her husband's business contact information with Tony so that he may request a quote from him, as well. The company is Frank's Signs. Tony shared that Parks and Rec have expressed interest in having all signs on Hooksett trails to be consistent. In addition to information on the signs, Tony recommended including a QR code on each sign that would allow viewers to read the full history of the park and mills on a webpage. Brittany will ask Leann at the Town Offices about having a subpage made on the Town's website that can house the full histories, which the QR codes would link to.

Third Cheever Painting: The first two Cheever paintings have been restored by Parma Conservation in Chicago. Parma was not the cheapest bid, but had the most experience. Jordan has reached out to Linda Donovan, operating an art restoration business in NH, for an estimate. He has not yet heard from either Parma or Linda Donovan following his request for estimates for restoring the third painting. Jordan shared that when the first two Cheever paintings were restored several years ago, the cost was \$6,300 for both. Jordan proposed two options for funding this project: the use of Heritage Commission funds or applying for another State Arts Council Grant. He noted that if grant funds are applied for, the project could be delayed. The grant application is due the first quarter of 2023 and the funds would need to be expended by the fourth quarter of the year. John stated there is no urgency to complete this project and suggested grant funds should be applied for. Jordan agreed, saying the painting is in a safe, controlled environment in the Town Offices. The Commission agreed to apply for the State Arts Council Grant. Referring to the Lambert's Park proposed sign on the Mills, Jordan suggested including the history of the canal and falls prior to the Mills. Jordan has the Merrimack County Archaeological Survey documents from Kathie's files. Brittany will share with Tony information on an Indigenous Peoples' organization that may be able to provide information on native people and their life along this section of the Merrimack River.

1790 Marker: Jordan cleaned up the area around the 1790 marker. He offered to create a database of Hooksett historical markers as a record and also to assist the public in finding these sites. Commission members supported the idea of a database and welcomed Jordan to create this.

Heritage Commission Files: Vickie will speak with Diane Valade about the files she has from projects she had worked on with Kathie. Bob Thinnas had invited Diane to attend tonight's meeting. Vickie will follow-up with Tony about the files Diane has after speaking with her.

Bench dedication for Kathie Northrup: Ben Berthiaume from Hooksett's Department of Public Works has put together a [report](#) on the proposed location for the Belisle granite monument, where the Commission is recommending the bench in memory of Kathie also be placed, at the intersection of Main Street and Riverside Drive. This will be presented to the Town Council on September 14. Tony will be present at the meeting. The Commission is currently waiting for completion of the plaque and the granite for the bench.

Demolition Regulations: Nothing to report at this time.

Donation of Declaration of Independence painting: There is no update at this time.

Additional business brought up by the Heritage Commission: Tony will pay \$15 for the Heritage Commission to have a booth at Old Home Day. The booth will have a scavenger hunt for those who visit. Tony will put in a special request to have the booth placed next to or near booths that Commission members will also be attending to.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brittany Overton