

**HOOKSETT HERITAGE COMMISSION****Tuesday, October 11, 2022****Hooksett Town Hall****35 Main St.****Council Chambers**

## Attendance:

Commission members: Tony Lacasse, Chair; Jordan Davis, Vice Chair; John Giotas, Member; Gloria Levasseur, Member; Andrea Therrien, Member

Public: Ruth Knowles, School Marms; Dana Pendergast, Town of Hooksett Code Enforcement Officer

Tony called the meeting to order at 5:15pm.

Those in attendance introduced themselves and their role on the Commission or in the community.

There was no public input.

Jordan moved to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2022 meeting. John seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-1.

There are no current invoices.

Lambert's Park Dedication and Sign: Tony has continued researching the history of this location from early native American settlements up through the current day. He referenced a study done by New Hampshire's Department of Natural and Cultural Resources that found several significant archeological sites at Hooksett Falls. Tony shared that Hooksett Falls was the location of the first settlement in Hooksett by native Americans. He pointed out that the location continued to be developed, including as a site for Hooksett's first saw mill and later for a grist mill, and now today it is preserved as an undeveloped piece of land for recreational purposes. Tony recommended three signs be made: one with information about the area during the pre-industrial revolution era, which would include settlement by native Americans, and later as the site of a grist mill. A second sign would summarize use of the land during the industrial revolution, and the third sign would honor Fred Lambert, his vision for the park, and how the land is preserved for recreation today. Tony suggested a change to the Park's Name: Lambert's Park at Hooksett Falls as a way to honor the park's origins. Ruth suggested that a land acknowledgement be done and placed at the park, or included in the history of the area on the town's website. John noted that the Falls were a draw for people, therefore has no problem with having "at Hooksett Falls" added to the end of the park's name. Jordan has a quote from Fossil Industries for \$1,200 for each sign. This does not include any installation costs. It is the hope of the Commission that the town may be able to provide assistance with installing the signs. A quote from Frank's Signs to come. Tony suggested an additional sign with the park's new name. There was consensus among the Commission to wait until spring to install the signs, then have a ceremony and unveiling in spring 2023. Tony expressed interest in having a granite marker with a plaque that identifies where the Dundee Mills were once located. The first two signs would also be here. There was discussion about a granite marker to come from Belisle Granite. Gloria will share contact information with Tony. When thinking about

images to be used on the signs, a suggestion was made to consider a digitized version of the Cheever painting that hangs in the Town Hall Council Chambers. Jordan will work with Leann, who has the template for the signs used at the Riverwalk Trail, to determine how much space would be available for images and text.

Next Steps with Lambert's Park Signs: Tony will send full written history to Brittany to proofread. Jordan will find out the word count for the signs. Commission members will pare down full history into summaries that can be used on signs. Brittany will help proof these summaries. Commission will choose images to be used. Brittany will find out from Leann what the current fund balance is for the Commission and whether additional steps are needed to utilize funds held by the Commission that were not budgeted to be spent this fiscal year.

Walking Tour: Gloria raised the idea of creating a downtown historical landmarks walking tour. Tony suggested the tour could start at the Prescott Tavern on Route 3A, continue to the site of Giles Tavern, then to a brick house on Main Street, which was built for the railroad conductor in Hooksett, then to Old Town Hall, the Historical Society, the New Hampshire monument that will be installed this month, then to Water Precinct that was once the Fire Department, then across the Lilac pedestrian bridge to Veterans' Memorial Park, onto Merrimack Street where an electric trolley that ran to Suncook once was, then to Lambert's Market, Hebert's Market, and Lambert's Park. This is an idea for a future project.

Hooksett History Book Update: There are no updates at this time. Andrea suggested the oral history interviews can help with writing this book. There was discussion about how long funds will be available. Brittany reported that funds became available July 1, 2022. They would not need to be encumbered until May/June 2023.

Third Cheever Painting: A grant proposal is planned to be crafted next February in preparation for the opening of the next State Arts Council grant cycle in March 2023.

Database of Historical Marker: Jordan created a spreadsheet listing all historical roadside markers in Hooksett. The spreadsheet populates a Google Map that visually shows where the markers are located. When selected, more information is available. Brittany will ask Leann if a new widget can be added to the Heritage Commission's town website for the map to be embedded. Currently, the spreadsheet and map include only roadside markers. Members expressed interest in adding other places of historical significance in Hooksett in the future.

Heritage Commission Files: Tony has files at his home. There are more at the library, which anyone from the Commission may access.

Bench dedication to Kathie Northrup: John reported that the plaque is finished and has been dropped off at Belisle Granite. Next step will be for Belisle Granite to attach the plaque to the bench. John Giotas and Bob Schroeder will take a look at the proposed location on the west side of the river to determine if the bench could be installed at the same location as the NH monument. Tony suggested both granite pieces be installed on Oct. 18, if the bench is done.

Demolition Regulations: Brittany will follow up with Nicholas Williams. Dana shared that Nicholas will share the recommended revision with the Planning Board. Depending on the change, it may require a public hearing.

6:23 Tony moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:23. John seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brittany Overton