

HOOKSETT HERITAGE COMMISSION
MINUTES
Tuesday, December 13, 2022
5:00 P.M.
Hooksett American Legion
5 Riverside St. Hooksett, NH 03106

Attendance:

Commission members: Tony Lacasse, Chair; Roger Duhaime, Member; John Giotas, Member; Andrea Therrien, Member

Tony called the meeting to order at 5:11 p.m.

School Marms Update: Ruth from the School Marms continues to speak with Christine Tewksbury about the best structure for the School Marms' financial accounts. One immediate change notes is that checks for School Marms will now be mailed to the Town Hall and will be given to Heritage Commission. Tony will hand over checks to Ruth and a member of the School Marms will deposit the funds in the current checking account held by the group.

Heritage Commission Files: Tony noted Kathie had a file of historical homes in Hooksett, which Tony will provide to Andrea for her research. The next meeting on January 10, 2023 and will serve as a working meeting for members to review files. Tony and Jordan plan to scan the documents and have them saved and accessible to all members in a Google Drive. It was noted that Diane Valade has images and other documents that may also be useful to have saved in the Drive. The Commission will reach out to her once Kathie's files have been preserved.

Demolition Regulations: John will meet with Dana Pendergast after the start of the new year.

Volunteer Recruitment to Assist Committees: Vickie Desharnais and Ruth Knowles will submit applications to become Heritage Commission alternates.

Village Improvement Committee: Light Up The Village was the first fundraising event for this committee. Funds will help create a 15-historical sign tour and other projects to beautify and bring people to the downtown area. The Commission raised approximately \$800 just from the tree raffle. More than \$5,000 was brought in from raffle and sponsors.

Andrea suggested using pictures from Images of America the Hooksett edition for the historical signs. Tony suggested Andrea bring the book to the next meeting and make note of what information in the book is of historical significance that may be able to be used on the sign.

Lambert Park Historical Rededication Committee: Tony will send Brittany a draft of a third write-up on native people at the falls to be proofread. Tony will talk with Hooksett's Park and Rec about putting the signs up.

Hooksett Historical Sketches Part 2 Committee: The Heritage Commission is responsible for writing Hooksett's history from 1969-present, a continuation of the book, Hooksett Historical Sketches. [Mike Heidorn](#) noted that the history of the Hooksett Water Precinct is available on their website. Also, Sewer Commissioner Bruce Kudrick was recommended as someone who could provide the history of the Sewer Commission and Pat Cate for Library history. Vickie Desharnais agreed to head up the Hooksett Historical Sketches Part 2 project with Tony's help. Details that need to be determined: How the book will be formatted (by decades, mini memoirs, by departments). Tony suggested having a couple public hearings to hear what the community wants from the book.

Light Up the Village Event Follow-Up: Tony led a recap of the event. Tony will send thank you notes to all sponsors. Arthur and Beth from the Grange reported they were excited to have a presence in the town during the event by hosting the craft fair. They said craft vendors were pleasant and the atmosphere was "fabulous." The vendors asked if there could be food at the event in the future. Also, in the future, they suggested it would be helpful with table setup if they had a list of vendors. They hosted more than 15 craft vendors. It was agreed that something directing attendees across the bridge to the Grange would also be beneficial. Suggestions included: having kids activities nearby, a wooden sign in the center of the village with arrows pointing to various venues, luminaries, or additional lighting done by The New England Holiday Light Company. Other locations for the craft fair could be Old Town Hall once it is restored or the Congregational Church.

Jeff from The New England Holiday Light Company said next year's project could be \$5-10,000, or easily up to \$20,000 with all the additional projects that could be a part of it. Total expenses this year at a discounted rate was around \$4,500.