

Hooksett Heritage Commission

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

5:00 PM

Hooksett Public Library, Village Depot Meeting Room

31 Mt. St. Mary's Way, Hooksett, NH 03106

Attendance:

Commission Members: Tony Lacasse (Chair), James Sullivan (Town Council Representative), Stephanie Perry (Member), Vickie Desharnais (Alternate), Jane Martina (Heritage Commission, Staff Support)

Members of the Public: Bob Thinnes (Hooksett Historical Society), Barbara Thinnes (Hooksett Resident), Abby Milonas (Hooksett Resident), Melissa Moore (Independent Contractor)

Meeting Minutes:

Jim Sullivan made a motion to approve the November 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Vickie Desharnais. The motion carried 3-0-0.

Jim Sullivan made a motion to approve the November 30, 2023 Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Vickie Desharnais. The motion carried 3-0-0.

Invoices:

Jim Sullivan made a motion to reimburse Town of Hooksett-Town Council in the amount of \$124.40 for the Public Hearing Notice in the Union Leader. The motion was seconded by Vickie Desharnais. The motion carried 3-0-0.

After the vote, Jim Sullivan inquired whether the Heritage Commission could consult Elizabeth Robidoux about modifying the Demolition Regulations to place financial responsibility for public hearing costs on the applicant. The Heritage Commission will seek Elizabeth Robidoux's input on amending the Demolition Regulations accordingly.

Hooksett History Book – Contractor Agreement:

Melissa Moore outlined the revisions made to the Independent Contractor Agreement with Leann McLaughlin, as agreed upon at the previous Heritage Commission meeting. Jim Sullivan asked Melissa Moore to outline her vision for the book's layout. She responded with an example using Hooksett Schools. Melissa Moore intends to accompany each future update to the Heritage Commission with corresponding outlines. Abby Milonas mentioned that she is volunteering with Jamie L'Italian at the Hooksett Public Library to inventory the town's Historical Collections. Abby Milonas is happy to keep an eye out for anything that might be of

interest to Melissa Moore in her research. Bob Thinnes inquired if Melissa Moore has familiarized herself with the library's holdings. Melissa Moore confirmed her review of the collections at the previous meeting. Melissa Moore informed the Heritage Commission about the type of scanner this project will need for photos. Jane Martina will check if the library's scanner fits the specifications. Melissa Moore mentioned Loudon's "Scan Day" initiative, implemented during the writing of their town history, which invited residents to contribute personal photographs for the project and their own digital archiving. Jim Sullivan sought clarification from Melissa Moore on photo count for the Hooksett History Book and committee involvement in selection. Melissa Moore confirmed 100 photos per the contract and welcomed the Heritage Commission's help. Recognizing the potential abundance of photos for inclusion in the book, Stephanie Perry proposed the creation of a separate "Then & Now" publication. The Heritage Commission, embraced the idea, designated the Book Group Sub-Committee to assist Melissa Moore with photo identification for the Hooksett History Book. Bob Thinnes queried the tight deadline, but Melissa Moore assured confidence in its feasibility. Bob Thinnes inquired about Town Records for research. Jim Sullivan assured easy access to Town Minutes for Melissa Moore. Melissa Moore, explaining her research approach of tackling multiple topics concurrently, envisioned Education and Celebrations as the initial focus for the project's first quarter. She then invited the Heritage Commission to suggest any other topics they'd like her to prioritize. Tony Lacasse sought clarification on Melissa Moore's topic choices, which she explained were driven by the abundance of available information. Bob Thinnes brought to Melissa Moore's attention the Historical Society's significant collection of documents pertaining to celebrations, currently part of the Hooksett Library's holdings, which could prove beneficial for her research. Jim Sullivan and Tony Lacasse suggested resources for Melissa Moore to learn about local celebrations: Jim Sullivan recommended Carolyn Schroeder due to her involvement in Hooksett celebrations, while Tony Lacasse suggested Paul Lambert for his knowledge of Old Home Day. The Heritage Commission suggested Melissa Moore explore several local celebrations for her book: Winter Carnival, Old Home Day, Light Up the Tree, Memorial Day Parades, National Night Out, and various anniversaries. Tony Lacasse inquired about Melissa Moore's writing style. Melissa Moore emphasized using personal narratives, believing it lends authenticity and uniqueness, while aiming for accessibility and factual accuracy. Tony Lacasse expressed agreement, finding her vision perfectly in line with the Heritage Commission's vision for this book. Jim Sullivan sought assurance that the book wouldn't be as concise as the Hooksett Historical Sketches. Melissa Moore assured Jim Sullivan she'd expand upon each subject. Tony Lacasse, noticing the absence of audiobooks in the contract, inquired about Melissa Moore's experience with the format. Melissa Moore, while lacking direct audiobook experience, readily offered her expertise with eBooks, suggesting a potential collaborative approach with the Publisher. After addressing Melissa Moore's questions, the Commission outlined their expectations for her March presentation: chapters with suggested titles, monthly progress updates, and research on celebrations and schools.

Tony Lacasse made a motion to approve the Independent Contractor Agreement to hire Melissa Moore as the author for the updated Hooksett History Book. The motion was seconded by Jim Sullivan. The motion carried 4-0-0.

Hooksett Heritage Commission Bylaws:

The Heritage Commission reviewed the draft bylaws. Bob Thinnnes sought clarification on the listed purpose. During review, Vickie Desharnais requested a change from "advice" to "advise" in the section on advising Town boards and commissions. Jim Sullivan suggested that the Chair appoint a Vice Chair. Bob Thinnnes sought clarification on the Commission's property acquisition ability. Jim Sullivan confirmed their ability to purchase property and offered further details

Jim Sullivan made a motion to approve the Hooksett Heritage Commission By-Laws and Rules of Procedure. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Perry. The motion carried 3-0-0.

Light Up the Village:

Tony Lacasse updated the Commission on Light Up the Village, praising its success despite the rain's impact on attendance. Jim Sullivan shared positive feedback on the event, praising the lights specifically. Reflecting on Light Up the Village, the Commission weighed successes and improvements. Barbara Thinnnes inquired about a potential rain/snow date; Tony confirmed its discussion but explained logistical challenges led to its exclusion. Signage for next year's Light Up the Village and expanding the Craft Fair space were both identified as areas of improvement for next year. Jim Sullivan suggested Tony Lacasse lead a debrief, a participant survey, and discussions with Leann McLaughlin on solidifying Light Up the Village as its own committee.

New Business:

Following the Citizen of the Year update, Jim Sullivan announced plans for a March assessment of the Native American Mural.

To ensure everyone was on the same page, Jim Sullivan asked Tony Lacasse to confirm if he'd signed the Pike Industries agreement. Tony Lacasse confirmed he hadn't yet, but would do so following the meeting.

Tony informed the Heritage Commission of his desire to start the Lambert Park Historical Marker project and invited Abby Milonas to lead the research. Tony Lacasse expects three historical markers covering Native American, Industrial, and Post-Industrial periods. Seeking clarification, Jim Sullivan asked if the markers would resemble the Riverwalk. Tony Lacasse agreed. Tony Lacasse proposed a May dedication for the project, and Abby Milonas volunteered to begin research for the project.

Tony Lacasse made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 PM. The motion was seconded by Jim Sullivan. The motion carried 4-0-0.