

Hooksett Heritage Commission
Hooksett Public Library
Hebert Room

Meeting started 5:04pm with Tony leading the public hearing.

Members in attendance: Andrea Therrien, Vickie Desharnais, John Giotas, Tony LaCasse

Supporters: Marilyn Pelletier, Ruth Knowles, Barbara and Bob Thinnes

Hooksett History Book

-Tony had reached out to Hampton Falls and Fremont NH town administrators for info and resources on there "recent" town histories

-Hampton falls finished there volume 3 from 1917-Present in 2022 for there 300 year anniversary thanks to Colin Garcia who was contracted in 2019 to write this book after the Hampton Falls Historical Society had interviewed multiple authors, writers, etc.

-Fremont finished there updated version in 2004 thanks to Mathew Thomas (Town Historian and Author for the book)

-Tony obtained a copy of the Hampton Falls Independent Contractor Agreement and this will be very helpful for us when we secure an author and publisher for Hooksett's book

Bob Thinnes' brother has a background in writing and was the former editor of the michigan kalamazoo -Bob is going to reach out to him and see if he could be a sounding board for us in this project (Bob and Barbara did mention that he is hard to get a hold of though)

It was decided upon that the first step is to have Tony/Mrs. Vickie, Bob Thinnes, Andrea and Brittany work on getting names of local authors and publishing companies who have recently published town history books and then connect with these writers, authors, and publishers to see if they would be interested in taking on this project and then interview multiple candidates for the job as we need to do an RFP for anything over \$15,000 and the town administrator needs to approve this per the administrator code of Hooksett.

Andrea is going to look through her NH history books and write down the authors and publishers of these so that we can then reach out to these people and then get a pool of candidates together to interview, provide scope of work, bids, etc. and then go from there.

It was believed that it might be a good idea to come up with some ideas and topics for the book so that we have a reference and theme to give to the candidates topics and ideas below

Categories discussed for the Hooksett History Book

- The Hooksett Library System and it's evolution (Fran Hebert is a great resource for this) Mrs. Vickie knows her
- Donati Family and there involvement in the town and the park named for them (Is this in the 1968-Present timeframe?)
- Burbank Ketchup Factory and the demolition of the Burbank Farmhouse in South Hooksett in 1997
- The evolution of the Hooksett School and Town Government systems
- Hooksett Villages and the population centers (Martin's ferry/Martin's Corner, South Hooksett, Rowe's Corner, Hooksett Village)
- Real Estate Development in Hooksett and Zoning (The development of Hooksett Rd. Shaws Plaza, Car dealerships, Campbell and Granite Hill, Exit 9, 10, 11 development)
- Manchester Sand & Gravel- The largest property owner in the town of Hooksett- the history of this once locally operated and run company and there philanthropy as well as there hand in Hooksett's development and preservation!
- Hooksett's natural landscape (Martin's ferry trail system and pond, Hooksett Riverwalk Trail, Heads Pond Trail, Pinnacle Pond and Peak, Quimby Mountain, Clay Pond & Conservation Area, Hannah Ho Hee Pond, Veterans Park, Heritage Landing, Lambert Park, Dube's Pond and Water Ski Club, Bear Brook State Park, Merrimack River access and public boat launches, ARC boat house and rowing club, Manchester Rowing land acquisition and potential boat house/Park in central hooksett, Hooksett Dog Park, Edgewater Drive Canoe & Kayak (The story behind the business and the man on Edgewater)
- Hooksett Town hall & offices (Old Town Hall to Hooksett Village School and the restoration work TBD on the Old Town Hall)
- Robie's Country Store and the Robie Family (Dot & Lloyd Robie and there retirement, the story behind putting the store up for sale, and then a group of local citizens coming together to save the store by forming a non profit organization named Robie's Country Store Historic Preservation Corporation in early 2000's and the history of the up's and downs as well as the ownership, and current plans and story for 2023
- Tourism industry the rise and fall in Hooksett, NH (Talk about the demise of the tourism industry in Hooksett in the 70's and 80's and all the cabins and motels, etc. that got torn dow etc. Talk about the "seedy" times in Hooksett with the Sky Ray Drive In Theatre and the Firebird Motel, and the other motels etc.
- Hooksett Sports and the evolution of the sports in Hooksett (HYAA, Jack Murphy, etc)
- Dundee Mills

- "Hooksett Navy Yard" along the Merrimack River in Hooksett
- The Hooksett Murder
- The Hooksett Arsonist (Congregational Church parsonage fire, Main Street homes, etc)
- Community Events (Hooksett Old Home Day, Town Tree Lighting/Light Up The Village, Sesquicentennial, Bicentennial)
- Lilac Bridge and the demolition

Lambert Park Dedication and Historical Markers

- The commission has decided to communicate with Phil Arnone at Parks and Rec and coordinate a date (hopefully in October to do the Lambert Park at Hooksett Falls historical unveiling)
- This will give the commission more time to focus on putting together proper history on the (3) eras of the park from the Native American Period, Industrial Period, and Post Industrial Period
- Tony and Brittany have worked together so far on the 2 most recent time periods and more work is needed to verify information as well as gather more information on the Native American time period and David Thoreau etc.
- There was talk that Parks And Rec are working on putting in a brick walkway from the parking area to the pavilion (When is this happening? We need to communicate with Phil Arnone from Parks and Rec)
- What does Parks And Rec want to do in regards to the horse shoe pit idea and Volleyball Court? Are they going to get this done for this fall so that we can have the grand unveiling all together?
- We need to loop back with Roger Duhaime to see if he was able to talk with the town council about the name change to the park and see what type of procedure we need to go through
- Mrs. Vickie had mentioned the idea for a granite cornhole set to be made possible by the belisle family to instal at Lambert Park instead of the horse shoes
- Andrea Therrien and Mrs. Vickie mentioned that they would help with the clean up at Lambert Park on April 22nd from 10-1pm with Tony and his Village Clean up crew for the village clean up (Anyone else who might be interested please reach out. We will be clearing brush, young growth trees, bittersweet, vines, etc to open up the access to the river and provide better views for the park unveiling. This will also help clean up along the shores of the river where there is a lot of trash, debris, shopping carts, buckets, metal etc.
- Mrs. Vickie is going to reach out to Carrie Hyde in an email in regards to the Historic Village Trolley tour on Old Home Day

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm

