

Hooksett Heritage Commission

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

5:00 PM

Hooksett Public Library, Village Depot Meeting Room

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

Attendance: Tony LaCasse (Chair), James Sullivan (Town Council Representative), Stephanie Perry (Member), Vickie Desharnais (Member), Dena Vaudrien (Member), Abby Milonas (Member), Jane Martina (Hooksett Heritage Commission Staff Support)

Members of the Public: Melissa Moore (Independent Contractor)

Tony LaCasse called the meeting to order at 4:58 PM.

Meeting Minutes:

Jim Sullivan Made a motion to approve the December 12, 2023 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Vickie Desharnais. The motion carried 6-0-0.

Hooksett History Book Update:

Melissa Moore provided an update on the Hooksett History Book Project to the Heritage Commission, expressing gratitude for the library's research assistance. Melissa Moore described her visit to the NH State Library, where discussions about her findings ensued. The Heritage Commission shared a variety of newspaper resources with information about the local schools and community events. Tony LaCasse also recommended that Melissa Moore reach out to Greg Martakos and Chief Sargent for further information on the police commission and National Night Out.

Melissa Moore, inspired by her visit to the NH State Library, brought two layout ideas to the Heritage Commission. Melissa Moore proposed starting chapters on the right, leaving the left page blank, and sought their input on what to do with that space. Suggestions ranged from chronology to photographs. For chapter titles, Melissa Moore offered standard titles, quotes, and metaphors. Tony LaCasse and the Commission leaned towards metaphors, while Jim Sullivan encouraged Melissa Moore's creativity. Circling back to layout, Dena Vaudrien clarified if left-page photos are additional, and Melissa Moore confirmed they are.

Continuing the discussion, Melissa Moore delved into the Citizen of the Year list, seeking clarity on the assigned researcher's interest. Vickie Desharnais confirmed that she'd verify their interest. The conversation flowed towards the award's presentation and if there should be a dedicated chapter or seamless integration within the text. Tony LaCasse, shared his support of a narrative nonfiction approach, encouraging Melissa Moore to weave Citizen of the Year recipients throughout the text where it is applicable. Tony LaCasse further suggested exploring a recent NH Business Review article featuring an insightful interview with the Town Administrator, Andre Garron. Drawing on her library experience, Vickie Desharnais voiced

concern about limited access to the Hardy book for kid's research projects and advocated for keeping the text readily accessible for all ages.

Concluding her update, Melissa Moore sought advice on who to interview for 1972 and 1976 events. The Heritage Commission recommended Carolyn Schroeder. Melissa Moore inquired about the best interview format. Jane Martina suggested the library's NH Room, with phone and video options for accessibility. Melissa Moore confirmed her next step: scheduling the oral history interviews.

Lambert Park Historical Marker:

Tony LaCasse inquired about Abby Milonas' research progress on this project. Abby Milonas informed the Heritage Commission that she hadn't found new primary sources but would share her resource list later, lacking her notes.

Tony LaCasse presented his vision for this project: three separate historical markers representing distinct eras. Following discussion, Jim Sullivan suggested utilizing the Merrimack Belknap County History due to limited information on Native American settlements in Hooksett documents. Tony LaCasse tasked Jim Sullivan and Abby Milonas with researching the "Falls" era over the next month, offering his own resources as well. Tony LaCasse proposed discussing their findings and next steps at the next meeting. To facilitate collaboration, Tony LaCasse will add everyone to the Heritage Commission Google Drive.

Light Up the Village:

Tony LaCasse highlighted the debrief meeting's emphasis on communication and the key decision to partner with the Fire Department and Library to create an all day Light Up the Village event on December 7, 2024. Tony LaCasse then extended an invitation to Heritage Commission members to join him at the Town Council meeting on January 24, 2024, to present establishing Light Up the Village as a separate committee.

New Business

Head School:

Vickie Desharnais informed the commission that they are looking for more school marm volunteers for Head School, proposing a video advertisement to recruit new volunteers. Vickie Desharnais shared that she envisions the video appealing to those with an interest in acting, and requested the assistance of Tony LaCasse and Marissa DelHay in its creation. Discussion ensued regarding the video's content, with Vickie Desharnais expressing a desire to reach local theater and acting groups. Abby Milonas offered her video editing skills, and Jim Sullivan mentioned Sean McDonald's interest in featuring Head School on NH Chronicle. Vickie confirmed she will reach out to Sean about featuring Head School in April or May, when they have a lot of events.

Citizen of the Year:

Jim Sullivan informed the Heritage Commission that he had gathered information on the last three recipients. Jim Sullivan will share this information with Jane Martina so the binder can be updated accordingly.

Native American Mural:

Jim Sullivan updated the Heritage Commission on the third Native American Mural restoration, reporting contact with Martha Cox of Great Works Restoration. Jim Sullivan will provide further details from Martha Cox and a picture of the mural to Jane Martina for distribution to the commission.

Cate Cemetery:

Following Vickie Desharnais inquiry about updates regarding the Cate Cemetery, Tony LaCasse shared his communication with Larry Major from Pike Industries regarding the marker's proposed location. The Heritage Commission opted to wait until Spring for further research, once Pike finishes property cleanup and the headstones are accessible. The Heritage Commission also decided to research historical marker vendors for discussion at the February meeting.

Tony LaCasse made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 PM. The motion was seconded by Abby Milonas.