

Hooksett Heritage Commission

Tuesday, March 26, 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 (Alternate Member), Dena Vaudrien (Member), Abby Milonas (Member), Jane Martina (Hooksett Heritage Commission Staff Support)

Members of the Public:

Melissa Moore (Independent Contractor), Bob Thinnis (Historical Society Member), Barbara Thinnis (Hooksett Resident), Ruth Knowles (Head School Society), Linda Battalagine (Hooksett Resident)

Tony LaCasse called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM

Tony LaCasse made a motion to approve the February 7, 2024 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Dena Vaudrien. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Tony LaCasse made a motion to approve the March 4, 2024 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Vickie Desharnais. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Tony LaCasse made a motion to approve the March 7, 2024 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Dena Vaudrien. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Hooksett History Book Update:

Continuing her work on researching town celebrations, Melissa Moore shared her progress on oral history interviews. Melissa Moore has completed an interview with Paul Lambert and has another interview scheduled with Sue and Bob Wiley on March 27th. To aid her research, Tony LaCasse recommended using google Docs for interview transcription and offered contacts for key events: Wayne and Sally Gehris and Janis Demeris for the Strawberry Festival, and Robin Boyd and Carrie Hyde for Old Home Day. The conversation subsequently shifted to accessing Bicentennial documents. Tony LaCasse proposed including the collaborative efforts of the Hooksett Library, Heritage Commission, and Historical Society within the new history book. Melissa Moore also received clarification regarding the governance of Hooksett and South Hooksett. Additionally, Melissa Moore, confirmed that Tony LaCasse, Jim Sullivan, and Vickie Desharnais are still interested in being interviewed regarding town celebrations.

Lambert Park Historical Marker:

Abby Milonas presented her research findings on Lambert Park, including details on the Dundee Mills and Fred Lambert. Abby Milonas is still looking for information on pre-European inhabitants. Dena Vaudrien shared tribal information with Abby Milonas, and Tony LaCasse and Jim Sullivan provided additional resources.

Head School Volunteer Update:

Ruth Knowles and Vickie Desharnais met with two potential volunteers to join the Head School Society. Ruth Knowles also informed the Commission that she is transitioning out of her role and intends to donate the money in the Head School account to the Heritage Commission. Ruth Knowles shared her proposal to create a sub-committee under the Heritage Commission called the Head School Society and Museum. Tony LaCasse suggested a current member of the Heritage Commission chair the sub-committee. Jim Sullivan offered to research the details of creating a sub-committee with the town and tasked the sub-committee to develop its own rule of procedure for the next Heritage Commission meeting.

Jim Sullivan made a motion to request the Heritage Commission to form a new sub-committee under its jurisdiction of the Hooksett Head School Society and Museum. The motion was seconded by Dena Vaudrien. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Heritage Commission Professional Development:

Tony LaCasse shared that he attended the New Hampshire Old Barn Expo and learned about the "Preservation Planning Handbook for New Hampshire" from the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance. Tony LaCasse shared that he believes this would be a valuable resource for the Heritage Commission and suggests purchasing copies for all commissioners.

Tony LaCasse made a motion to have the Heritage Commission purchase 7 copies of the Preservation Planning Handbook for New Hampshire to total the amount of \$175.00. The motion was seconded by Vickie Desharnais. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Historic Old Town Hall

Tony LaCasse shared that he connected with Steve Bedard at the New Hampshire Old Barn Expo. He presented a proposal to use Steve's company for a site assessment of Old Town Hall at a cost of \$500 on March 28th. Jane Martina recommended that the Commission consults Elizabeth Robidoux at Town Hall prior to the assessment to ensure the Commission fulfills any prerequisites and/or necessary procedures. Dena Vaudrien volunteered to contact Elizabeth Robidoux on March 27th, potentially allowing for the assessment on March 28th.

Tony LaCasse made a motion to approve an expenditure to have Steve Bedard complete a site assessment of Historic Old Town Hall with approval of Town Administration for the amount of \$500. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Perry. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Demo Permit – 63 Londonderry Turnpike:

Tony LaCasse asked the Commission about any research they conducted on the property. Dena Vaudrien shared her findings and Tony LaCasse shared that he suspects the property might be older than the tax record indicates. Abby Milonas agreed and offered to help gather historical information. Given the questions the Commission has regarding the property, Tony LaCasse recommended further research to determine if there is historical significance. Subsequently, Tony LaCasse contacted the property owner to seek permission for a Heritage Commission site walk within the next ten days. Jane Martina suggested obtaining Elizabeth Robidoux's approval for the site walk and access to the building, as well. Dena Vaudrien volunteered to contact Elizabeth Robidoux regarding the site walk. Upon receiving permission, the Commission plans to conduct the site walk on March 28th.

Texaco Sign Update:

Vickie Desharnais inquired about the Texaco sign. Tony Lacasse reported that Mark Cusson inspected the sign and recommended removal due to safety concerns from its disrepair. Mark Cusson obtained approval from the owners to take down the sign. The plan is to carefully preserve the sign's appearance, while also reinforcing the base. Once these steps are completed, the sign will be reinstalled. Tony LaCasse does not have any further information regarding the demolition of the gas station itself.

Tony LaCasse made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 PM. The motion was seconded by Abby Milonas. The motion carried 5-0-0.