

## **RYE HERITAGE COMMISSION**

**Thursday, August 2, 2018**

**6:30 p.m. – Rye Town Hall**

***Present: Chair Beverly Giblin, Mae Bradshaw, Peter White, Rich Davis, Alternates Anne Richter-Arnold, Elizabeth Sanborn, Philip Walsh and Gail Hughes.***

### **I. Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Giblin called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Giblin seated Elizabeth Sanborn for James Tegeder and Anne Richter-Arnold for Alex Herlihy.

### **II. Approval of Minutes – July 2018**

**Motion by Elizabeth Sanborn to approve the minutes of July 17, 2018 as presented.**

**Seconded by Mae Bradshaw. Vote: 5-0-1 Abstained: Rich Davis**

### **III. Reports:**

#### **• Treasurer's Report – Peter White**

Member White announced that the Heritage Commission had a very successful fundraiser. At the end of June the commission had brought in \$14,632 and now that amount is \$20,191 which is an increase for July of \$5,559. He also noted that this is the first time that the Heritage Fund has ever been over \$20,000. The commission has done a great job with fundraising and the fund balance is very strong. Of the funds raised, almost \$17,000 is oriented towards the Town Hall. The commission has a lot of ability to influence the progress made on renovating the building. He continued that from an operating standpoint, the commission has spent 15% of their budget through July, leaving 85% left for spending over the next five months. There is money in the budget to put out another mailer, which is intended to be distributed the end of September or early October.

**Motion by Elizabeth Sanborn to approve the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Rich Davis. All in favor.**

- **Demolition Review Committee – New Member**

There was discussion on appointing a member to fill the vacant seat on the Demolition Review Committee. Alternate Sanborn agreed to fill the seat.

**Motion by Mae Bradshaw to appoint Elizabeth Sanborn to the Demolition Review Committee. Seconded by Peter White. All in favor.**

- **CLGC, Historic District and Plan NH – Mae Bradshaw**

Member Bradshaw noted that she and Member Herlihy went to Concord to copy the documents that are required. There is a wealth of information about the Town of Rye. The application will move on to the town for signoff and then on to final signoff by the government. It is expected that the town will be eligible for funding by the fall. In regards to Plan NH, the Selectmen have agreed to look at the proposal when it is done. The select board is supportive of the idea of having the charrette. She commented that the visioning session (charrette) is a one day event, which is open to the public. The charrette is \$6,000 which will need to be fundraised by private funds in order for it to take place. She commented that it might be worth the Heritage Commission participating and donating \$1,000 to cause.

**Motion by Mae Bradshaw to donate \$1,000 towards the Plan NH Charrette. Seconded by Peter White. All in favor.**

- **Historic Structure Report**

Member Bradshaw noted that she received the Historic Structures Report, which is still in draft form. The report will be presented to the Selectmen on August 13<sup>th</sup> at their meeting. She encourages the members to attend that meeting. She read from the report's executive summary:

*“The Rye Town Hall exhibits typical, relatively minor, preservation concerns for a building of its age. While it requires some exterior wood work, siding repair and replacement, a quality paint job and minor adjustment to the landscape to improve drainage. The building is structurally sound for its current use and occupancy. The building envelope can be easily repaired and remain in service indefinitely. We advocate for preservation and on-going use of this historic structure as the Town Hall. It is an important edifice in the historic Rye town center and retains significant historic character. The building and structure is sound and can be renovated, adapted and expanded to accommodate modern use. Expansion to the rear and the relocation of certain offices could also include returning the main area, the second floor, to former use as a large open versatile public space, while upgrading and expanding the office spaces of town government officials.”*

Member Bradshaw stated that she believes the draft report has already gone to L-Chip to be sure it is adequate for their purposes for future grants.

Member White suggested that they get excerpts from the report into the next quarterly town newsletter after the select board reviews.

The commission agreed.

- **Town Hall Painting**

Member Bradshaw noted it is “sprinkled” throughout the report that before clapboards are replaced they go through and preserve and strengthen them. If the clapboards need to be replaced, it should be known what kind of wood should be used. The report is very detailed as to the exterior conditions. It may be somewhat different than what was voted on for the painting. The intent is for the painting to start in October. There may be bidding on just the particular elements of the exterior that need to be fixed before painting.

There was some discussion on using the funds they have raised for the repairs that may be needed for the exterior of the Town Hall.

#### **IV. Other Business**

Member Bradshaw noted that she received a letter from EBI Consulting regarding the cell tower being proposed by Verizon off Brackett Road. The question is whether the Heritage Commission wants to submit comments on regarding the proposed projects potential effect on historic properties.

*\*Note: Anne Richter-Arnold recused herself from the discussion as she is still a Planning Board Alternate Member.*

Member Bradshaw continued that the Heritage Commission does not just think about buildings. They also encompass the land and all the historic resources of the town. They want the Heritage Commission’s input on whether or not they feel the tower will have impact on some of the historic sites.

Member White stated that he does not think there is a historic concept associated with the location of the proposal. There are not a lot of historic homes in that neighborhood.

Member Bradshaw explained that it is the Selectmen’s job to provide safety for the community and safety involves cell service. As she understands, they have tried to find an expert who would look at the whole town and all the possibilities that would provide adequate cell service for everyone. The Selectmen have not been able to find an expert to do this. Since this has come up with Verizon, they have found an expert who will be looking at the whole issue, not just the Verizon proposal.

After discussion, the commission agreed to review the cell tower proposal and look at the site to discuss their thoughts. At that time, someone from the commission may be appointed to attend

the cell tower meetings or they will write a letter. Alternate Sanborn agreed to research the proposal and attend the Planning Board meeting.

**Motion by Mae Bradshaw that the subcommittee on the cell tower has the authority to speak, or submit a report in writing, on behalf the Heritage Commission at the Planning Board meeting. Seconded by Peter White. All in favor.**

**V. Old Business**

- None
- Next meeting Thursday, September 6, 2018

**Adjournment**

**Motion by Rich Davis to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw. All in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dyana F. Ledger