

RYE HERITAGE COMMISSION

Thursday, September 6, 2018

6:30 p.m. – Rye Town Hall

Present: Acting Chair Richard Davis, Mae Bradshaw, Peter White, Frank Hwang, Alternates Gail Hughes, Anne Richter-Arnold, Elizabeth Sanborn. Alex Herlihy (arrived at 6:45pm)

I. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 6:32pm and led the pledge of Allegiance. He announced that Chair Giblin will not be at the meeting because her dog Gunther had passed away.

The commission held a moment of silence for Gunther.

Anne Richter-Arnold was seated for Beverly Giblin and Gail Hughes was seated for Alex Herlihy.

II. Opening for Alternate

Member Bradshaw asked Alternate Sanborn if she had considered accepting the vacant seat on the commission.

Alternate Sanborn stated that after considerable thought she has decided not to accept the position due to family situations. This is just not the right time for her to take on the responsibility.

Alternate Hughes agreed to fill the vacant seat.

Motion by Mae Bradshaw to appoint Gail Hughes as a permanent member of the Heritage Commission. Seconded by Frank Hwang. All in favor.

A letter of recommendation from Chair Giblin and a letter requesting appointment from Alternate Hughes will be sent to the Board of Selectmen for approval.

III. Planning Board and Cell Phone Issue – Elizabeth Sanborn

Alternate Sanborn reported on the visit to the Planning Board Meeting of August 14th. She noted that Attorney Donovan stated that the Planning Board hopes to have the Cell Tower Issue wrapped up by September 4th or 13th. If the Heritage Commission would like to weigh in on the matter, they need to write a letter to the Planning Board by August 17th. She informed the Commission that she wrote the letter to the Planning Board on behalf of the commission outlining their questions. She recommended that the commission let the issue play-out its course with the residents.

Member Bradshaw reported that the Board of Adjustment held a meeting on September 4th. There was a presentation by Verizon and some of the residents had an opportunity to speak. There will be another

meeting scheduled to allow more testimony. She stated that she does not think it's appropriate for the Heritage Commission the weigh in on the issue at this time.

Alternate Sanborn volunteered to continue to follow the issue.

IV. Approval of Minutes August 2018

Motion by Elizabeth Sanborn to approve the minutes of August 2, 2018 as presented. Seconded by Frank Hwang. All in Favor.

Alternate Sanborn left the meeting at 6:55 p.m. Member Herlihy was seated and Alternate Hughes was unseated.

V. Reports:

- **Treasure's Report – Peter White**

Member White announced that the Heritage Commission has reached a high-water mark of \$23,360.46 on deposits. He congratulated all the members' efforts as he pointed out that this amount is approximately \$6,700 higher than the balance on deposits two months ago. He continued that from an operating standpoint, the commission has spent 18% of their budget leaving 82%. He recommended that the Heritage Commission move forward with printing and mailing its annual fundraising tri-fold flyer. He stated that he would like to take the lead on the project. He asked for the members' input of what project should be the focus of the fundraiser this year.

Members Bradshaw noted that she and Member Hwang attended the August 13th meeting of the Board of Selectmen for the presentation of the Historic Structure Report. She reported that the clapboards on the lower half of the building (from the window sills down) need to be replaced. The clapboards on the upper half are in good shape. At that meeting, she encouraged the Board of Selectmen to replace the clapboards prior to the painting. She explained that the Selectmen are hesitant about spending the money. She offered a contribution from Heritage funds of up to \$17,000 for the project but only if there is not enough money budgeted by the Selectmen for the work.

Member Bradshaw also reported that the window expert that the Commission has been working with submitted a new report and bid for the restoration of the upper 9 large windows. He recommended that the windows be removed and restored 3 at a time. This Bid did not include replacement of the upper storm windows nor any work or replacements on the bottom floor. The second phase of the project would be replacing all the storm windows with preservation quality storms. She has submitted the report to the Board of Selectmen.

The Commission discussed the idea of including excerpts from the Executive Summary of the Historic Structures Report in the fundraising flyer. They also discussed their goals and focus for the fundraising for this year.

Motion by Anne Richter-Arnold that the content for the fundraising flyer focus on the refurbishment, restoration and/or repair of the historic windows in the Town Hall. Seconded by Peter White. All in favor.

Member Bradshaw asked the commission for approval of her commitment of the contribution of up to \$17,000 of Heritage funds for the replacement of the clapboards.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding replacing the siding with Heritage fundraising money.

Members White and Herlihy both expressed concern that the Town's people may feel that the repairs to the clapboards should have been included in the painting budget that was already voted on. Especially, since the painting bid came in under budget.

Member White stated that this information could potentially hurt this new fundraising campaign.

Member Richter-Arnold pointed out that if the public sees the results of their prior donations by work being started on the building, it will benefit the upcoming fundraising effort.

Member Hughes stressed that there is a right way and a wrong way to approach this project. She stated that it is wrong to waste taxpayers' dollars by painting rotting wood. Regardless of where the money is coming from, the commission should approach this project by doing the right thing and replace the clapboards.

Member Davis made the comment that the Selectmen have the money to do what they are suppose to do but now the Heritage Commission is proposing to give more money to do it better.

Member White proposed that if the building is in such disrepair that the Selectmen will go over budget. At that time, they could come to the Heritage Commission for help for up to a certain amount.

Member Hughes reminded the commission that the contract has been signed and the start date has been set.

Member Bradshaw asked the other members if they agreed that it would be preferable to replace the wood prior to painting.

Motion by Mae Bradshaw that the Heritage Commission support replacing the wood, as recommended by the Historic Structure Report, prior to the building being painted. Seconded by Anne Richter-Arnold. All in favor.

Motion by Mae Bradshaw that the Heritage Commission accept the commitment of a contribution of up to \$17,000, if the Selectmen need the money for the wood replacement. Seconded by Anne Richter-Arnold. 6-1-0 Opposed: Peter White

Member Hughes will be following up on the window project by contacting Steve Decatur, (the window expert) and Harvey's Industries.

Selectmen's Rep. Roman called in to the meeting and reported that the bids for the wood replacement have gone out and are due back by September 20th. The Town has not received any back so far.

VI. Plan NH

Member Bradshaw reported that she and Selectman Roman are working as a team to answer 4 questions posed by the Plan NH Team. The questions must be answered before they will consider setting up the charrette for the Town. The questions are aimed at defining the area, such as the impact of the area to other neighboring towns, economics and traffic flow through the area. She stated that the finalized application will be complete and presented to the Board of Selectmen the beginning of October.

VII. Grave Yard Projects

Member Davis stated that he will reach out to James Tegeder to ask if he will work with the Boy Scouts again this year.

VIII. Other Project Updates

Member Bradshaw reported that the Historic District will be hosting an event at the museum for all the people that live in the district. The Historic District is putting together a manual for all the residents of the district listing all the ordinances, rules and regulations, and the history of the district. These will be published soon. Extra copies will be available at the museum, the library and the Town Hall. She extended an invitation to the members of the Heritage Commission to attend the presentation by Andrew Cushing of the NH Preservation Alliance on Tuesday night, September 18th, at 5:00 p.m.

IX. Old Business

- None

X. Next Meeting Thursday, October 4, 2018

XI. Adjournment

Motion by Mae Bradshaw to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Seconded by Alex Herlihy. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger