

RYE HERITAGE COMMISSION

Thursday, October 04, 2018

6:30 p.m. – Rye Town Hall

Present: Beverly Giblin, Peter White, Frank Hwang, Gail Hughes, and Alternates Elizabeth Sanborn and Philip Walsh. Selectmen's Rep, Keriann Roman

I. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Giblin called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. and led the pledge of Allegiance.

Elizabeth Sanborn was seated for Mae Bradshaw and Philip Walsh was seated for Alex Herlihy.

II. Approval of Minutes September 2018

It was noted by member Hughes that Frank Hwang was not at the September 6th meeting and that all references to Frank Hwang should be Philip Walsh.

Motion by Peter White to approve the minutes of September 6, 2018 as amended. Seconded by Frank Hwang. All in Favor.

III. Treasure's Report – Peter White

Member White announced that the Heritage Commission has a balance of \$20,868.00 on deposits. He stated that the fundraising flyers are being printed and will be going out by the end of next week. He explained that the printing and postage will be taken out of the advertising and postage lines in the operating budget, however, even with these expenditures, Heritage will be within budget for the 2018 budget year.

Motion by Elizabeth Sanborn to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Seconded by Gail Hughes. All in Favor.

IV. Demolition Committee

Alternate Sanborn reported that a hearing is scheduled on Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 2:00 pm, for the property at 361 Central Road. She pointed out that it is a classic example of a New England Farmhouse. Member Hughes stated that the owner, Grace Philbrick just passed away at 103. The farm is an important part of Rye History. Ms. Sanborn stated that she will not be able to attend the meeting on the 10th; however, Member Hughes stated that she would attend. Alternate Sanborn pointed out that the Demolition Committee has no authority to prevent a tear down, however; it has the opportunity to educate the new owners of the historic value of the property, not just for Rye, but as a New England Farmhouse.

Alternate Sanborn also reported that a small beach house on Myrica came up but proved to be of no historical or heritage importance.

V. Town Hall Painting, Repair, Windows and Other Projects

Selectman Keriann Roman reported that there were no bids on the Town Hall clapboard replacement project. However, one of the contractors, a former Rye resident, Richard Bartlett, looked at the project and stated that he would have the time to replace the rotted trim and clapboards and remove the foam insulation according to the specs outlined by Grass Roots. This work will start any day and will cost \$6,000. The painting will start the end of this month and should take about ten days.

Member Hughes reminded the commission that she was asked by Vice Chair Bradshaw to follow up on the window project by contacting Steve Decatur, (the window expert) and Harvey's Industries. She reported that she did follow up with Harvey Industries, however, they will not deal with the public and they only sell to contractors. Mr. Decatur referred Ms. Hughes to a contractor that lives in Rye, Todd Michel. They met yesterday at the Town Hall and Mr. Michel is going to get the information and get back to the Heritage Commission prior to the next meeting.

VI. Plan NH, CLGS, Historic District - Mae Bradshaw

Chair Giblin Tabled CLGS and Historic District reports until Member Bradshaw is in attendance.

Selectman Roman reported on the application process to Plan NH. She reported that the application is in the final stages and will be wrapped up soon. The final application will be presented to the Board of Selectmen sometime within the next two meetings. The Board of Selectmen will review it and write a letter of participation at that time. She pointed out that the project is on schedule.

VII. Historic Structure Report

Chair Giblin told the commission that she received an e-mail from Town Administrator, Michael Magnant. Mr. Magnant stated that a public awareness meeting was included as part of the RFP for the Historic Structure Report. The thinking at the time was that there is a lot of interest in the Town Hall Structure. Mr. Magnant asked the Heritage Commission to take the lead in hosting a public forum in order to present the findings of the final report from Grass Roots.

After a brief discussion regarding timing, the Commission agreed to host a public forum prior to Thanksgiving and to invite a speaker from Grass Roots to help present.

VIII. Fundraising

Alternate Sanborn asked for feedback from the glossy flyer that was done at the beginning of the year. Member White stated that that flyer was not sent out in the mail it was just done up to be placed around town for people to pick up. There were only 1,000 printed and a mailing for a fundraiser is generally 3,000. It was well done and he feels the Heritage Commission got a lot of mileage from this marketing. Ms. Sanborn felt that that flyer should be used as a fundraiser tool.

Selectman Roman pointed out that it was not structured as a fundraiser it was designed as an educational piece.

Ms. Sanborn said that it should be used at the November 6th election. She stated that it's hard not to love the Town Hall after reading that flyer.

After a brief discussion, it was decided that the Heritage Commission will have a table to sell Rye hats, totes and umbrellas at the November 6th election.

Member White stated that the inventory is still in James Tegeder's barn. Alternate Sanborn volunteered to check to see what inventory is left.

IX. Grave Yard Projects

Member White asked that this be Tabled at this time. Alternate Sanborn stated that this is a missed opportunity. Halloween is the perfect time to have a Civic Grave Yard Project. Member White pointed out that the Heritage Commission has hosted a grave cleaning the Saturday morning before Halloween from 9 am to noon, with the Boy Scouts for the last four years. There was a lot of publicity but very little interest from the people of the Town of Rye. Member White said that he will ask James Tegeder if he will work with the Boy Scouts again this year.

X. Old Business – None

XI. New Business

Alternate Sanborn expressed her frustration regarding old projects that stall out and missed opportunities. She stressed that it seems that the Commission is moving too slow. She added now is the time to mobilize. Different strategies need to be looked at to generate new outcomes and to engage more public involvement.

Member White pointed out that the Town Hall effort is and has been the priority. He added that if the Board of Selectmen takes care of the elevator and the bathrooms and the Heritage take care of the windows it turns into a dual initiative that is powerful for the Town of Rye. It is solving a problem.

XII. Next Meeting Thursday, November 1, 2018

XIII. Adjournment

Motion by Peter White to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Seconded by Frank Hwang. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger