

**Town of Rye
Heritage Commission
Thursday, November 2, 2017 - 6:30 p.m.
Rye Town Hall**

Members Present: Chair Bev Giblin, Vice-Chair Rich Davis, Peter White, Mae Bradshaw, Alex Herlihy, Selectmen's Rep Craig Musselman and Alternate Elizabeth Sanborn

Others Present: Resident Anne Arnold

I. Call to Order

Chair Giblin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Introduction of Members

Members of the Commission introduced themselves.

III. Committee Membership Status and Candidates

Anne Arnold, 746 Long John Road, spoke to the Commission in regards to her interest in serving as an alternate to the Heritage Commission. She is currently the vice-president of the Historical Society and serves on the Chapel Committee for St. Andrews. She is a writer and has an interest in history.

Motion by Mae Bradshaw to accept Anne Arnold as an alternate on the Heritage Commission. Seconded by Rich Davis. All in favor.

Letters from Ms. Arnold and Chair Giblin will be submitted to the Selectmen for appointment at their next meeting.

Member Bradshaw noted that Sue Reynolds, who was the Heritage Commission Honoree for the past year, has expressed her interest in becoming an alternate. Ms. Reynolds will be attending the December 7th meeting to meet the other members.

Chair Giblin noted that Frank Hwang contacted the Selectmen's Secretary a few months ago about his interest in becoming an alternate on the Commission. She has been in contact with Mr. Hwang and he has sent his letter to the Selectmen for appointment.

Member Bradshaw commented that Sue Rizkalla has also expressed interest in serving on the Commission. It is not certain if she will be able to join in the near future.

Chair Giblin will invite the interested parties to the next meeting so the Commission can meet them.

IV. Approval of Minutes – October 5, 2017

Motion by Peter White to approve the minutes of October 5, 2017 as presented. Seconded by Rich Davis. Vote: 6-0

Alternate Sanborn was seated as a member for the remainder of the meeting.

V. Reports

- **Treasurer's Report and Direct Mail Results – Peter White**

Member White noted that the Commission is still well under the 2017 budget. There are no concerns of any line item exceeding the budget. The month of October started with cash of about \$13,000. The Commission has raised between approximately \$5,000 from the annual mailer, which is going very well. There have been about \$6,000 in disbursements for October. The balance is \$12,000 with \$3,000 of those funds being unrestricted and \$9,000 earmarked for Town Hall. He commented that the mailer has paid for underwriting the products fundraiser. The Commission is poised to make some more money through the sale of the products.

Motion by Peter White to pay \$5,926.47 to Forbes Marketing Group for the apparel. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Forbes Marketing has handled the printing of the merchandise for the products fundraiser. The fundraiser was approved at a previous Heritage Commission Meeting.

Vote: 7-0

- **2018 Budget – Peter White**

The 2018 Budget was presented to the Board of Selectmen at their budget meeting on October 26th. There was a discussion about the painting of the Town Hall being associated with the Heritage Commission's Budget, which was not included in the budget. The budget for 2018 will be consistent with last year's budget.

- **Credit Card Sales for Apparel – Peter White**

Credit cards may now be accepted for the purchase of apparel through the Town of Rye credit processing service. People who wish to use a credit card to purchase the fundraising apparel or to make a donation may go to the Town of Rye website and follow the directions posted.

- **Bills**

- **NH Preservation Alliance – Annual Membership Dues - \$50.**

Motion by Peter White to pay NH Preservation Alliance in the amount of \$50. Seconded by Beverly Giblin. All in favor.

- **Rockingham Planning Commission – NH Planning & Land Use Book - \$8.**

The Commission agreed to pass on ordering the book at this time.

Motion by Peter White to approve the Treasurer’s Report for October. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw. All in favor.

VI. Project Updates

- **Sale of Hats, Bags and Umbrellas – Mae Bradshaw**

Member Bradshaw noted that the Town Clerk’s Office will be selling the merchandise. Items are \$25 and may be paid by credit card. Merchandise was delivered to the Clerk’s Office last week.

There was discussion about the idea of speaking at the next Selectmen’s meeting during the public comment session to let the residents know about the fundraiser. The goal of the Commission is to sell 250 of each item. There was also discussion about approaching the real estate offices in town about the possibility of using the merchandise as closing gifts for their clients. Other ideas were discussed in regards to promoting the merchandise.

VII. Warrant Article

Selectmen’s Rep Musselman explained there are two ways to have a warrant article. One way is for the Selectmen to place a warrant article, which is done by a certain date in early January. The other route is by the citizen’s petition warrant article, which are also due in January. At the last Selectmen’s meeting, there was discussion about the painting of the Town Hall. The Selectmen feel that the first step is to find out if the L-Chip Grant is offered to Rye. If the grant is offered, it should be discussed at the December Heritage Commission meeting and the first Board of Selectmen meeting in December. The Heritage Commission and the Board of

Selectmen will need to focus on the restrictions and make sure everyone is comfortable moving forward. If it is decided to move forward, there will need to be a warrant article that would be placed by the Selectmen. The warrant article would address the grant money and would apprise the town meeting voters, in some fashion, of the restrictions. The total of the warrant article would be \$120,000 but the town's share would be "up to \$60,000" with some being funded by the Heritage Commission and the other by the ballot by town voters. The other \$60,000 would come from the L-Chip Grant. He continued that if the town does not receive the grant, they are left with needing to do a warrant article to paint Town Hall. The intent of the Board of Selectmen at this time, is to place two warrant articles. One will be for the L-Chip Grant with matching funds or an article for the town to paint the Town Hall. The other warrant article is to buy the T.D. Bank property, which is 3.7 acres with the bank building. The idea is to keep the building exactly as it is and to move the Town Clerk, and possibly Assessing, into the building. The residents would have the ability to receive Town Clerk services through the drive-up windows. The current Town Hall would keep the remaining offices.

He stated the Selectmen have been in touch with the bank at multiple levels. The bank is working on an appraisal. It has been found that there is a deed restriction that if it is commercial it can only be another bank. The town is not a commercial entity. The other use under the deed restriction is as a single family residence. There may be a warrant article being placed by a private individual, which in all likelihood will be a bond article. The proposal will be to demolish the existing Town Hall and build a new three story building on the lot. It will not be known till the second week of January whether that warrant article will be placed. He commented that he would like that individual to consider the idea that it might be better and far less costly for the town to buy the bank property for part of the town offices and work with the current Town Hall long term to make it work.

Member White asked why buying the T.D. Bank building would be a better idea than developing the old police station.

Selectman Musselman stated it is a lot with 3.7 acres. There is a lot of room in the back for whatever is needed in the future. There is a drive-through which is a great service for everyone in Rye. There is room out back if a new meeting room is needed in town. A room could be built in the back without changing how it looks in the Historic District. Also, it abuts Parson's Field and the Town Forest. It is a great location. He noted that if the town does not want to use it as offices, which it seems it is tailor made for without much renovation, it may want to be considered as an addition to Parson's Field and the Town Forest.

VIII. Fundraiser Spreadsheet – James Tegeder *(To be addressed next month)*

IX. Old Business

- **None**

X. Other Business

Chair Giblin accepted David Choate's request to be a member on the Demolition Review Committee.

David Choate spoke to the Commission about the NH Preservation Alliance Historic Barns Assessment Grant. The grant is available to barn owners across the State with assessment grants, assistance in tax relief and educational opportunities to help save their historic barns.

Member Herlihy noted that the Historical Society has been working on identifying and documenting all buildings built before 1950 in town in order to digitize the information. There is more work to be done and volunteers are greatly needed to assist in the project. Anyone who is interested in helping may contact the Historical Society for more information.

XI. Next Meeting - Thursday, December 7th, 6:30 p.m., Rye Town Hall Holiday Party, Friday, December 8th, 5:00 p.m., Rye Historical Museum

Adjournment

Motion by Rich Davis to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Seconded by Peter White. All in favor.