

**Town of Rye  
Heritage Commission  
Thursday, December 7, 2017 - 6:30 p.m.  
Rye Town Hall**

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

*Others Present: Frank Hwang, resident seeking an alternate position, Gail Hughes, resident interested in possibly seeking an alternate position, and David Choate, NH Preservation Alliance Board Member and Rye Resident*

**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Approval of Minutes – November 2, 2017**

**Motion by Peter White to approve the minutes of November 2, 2017 as presented.  
Seconded by Alex Herlihy. All in favor.**

**III. Vote for appointment of Frank Hwang**

Chair Giblin introduced Frank Hwang to the Commission.

Mr. Hwang stated that he and his family have been in Rye for six years. They live in the Historic District and feel the older homes are an important piece to the town. He is looking to get more involved in the community.

Chair Giblin welcomed Mr. Hwang to the Commission. She is delighted to see members with younger families become involved with the town.

**Motion by Mae Bradshaw to approve Frank Hwang as an alternate to the Heritage Commission. Seconded by Peter White. All in favor.**

#### **IV. Reports:**

- **Treasurer's Report – Peter White**

Member White noted the Commission has expended \$3,055 against an annual budget of \$3,800. It is highly likely the Commission will come in under budget for the third consecutive year. He continued there is \$12,266.54 in the checking account. There is about \$5,600 in products that the Commission has as an asset and is available for sale. There has been about \$500 in profit generated on the sales thus far.

#### **V. Fundraising Projects**

##### **Status of L-Chip Grant and Town Hall update**

##### Sales of Umbrellas, Hats and Totes:

Chair Giblin commented that she is getting a little concerned about the sales.

Selectman Musselman stated the comment that he has heard is that the products are too expensive, even though the price has been lowered.

Chair Giblin noted that she has asked the Selectmen's Secretary to put an ad in the upcoming newsletter for the products in place of the Heritage's news article.

Member White pointed out that the Commission has raised \$5,000 or \$6,000 from the mailer. He would think that those people would be inclined to buy the products.

Speaking to Selectman Musselman, Member Herlihy asked if it is appropriate to sell the merchandise at the Deliberative Session and election. If this is going to be done, the Commission needs to do some work on how to reach the public to make it clear why the products are \$20.00. It is important that people understand why the Heritage Commission is trying to raise this money.

Member Bradshaw commented that selling the merchandise at the Deliberative Session is a bad idea because it becomes too politically challenging.

Selectman Musselman commented that the election would probably be more problematic than the Deliberative Session. The sales could certainly not take place inside the building at the election. He does not think it matters at the Deliberative Session. He pointed out that they do not know what warrant articles are going to be at the Deliberative Session and some of them could be related.

Member Bradshaw commented that they need to hear about the status of the town hall and warrant articles before the Commission decides what they are doing.

Chair Giblin asked what happens now that they did not receive the grant.

Selectman Musselman explained they have been offered \$12,000 to help pay for a Historic Structural Report (HSR). The last estimate the town got was in the low 30's but one could be done for less, depending on the detail of the report. The base budget of the town has been adjusted to have enough money in the Town Hall Reserves to do part of a HSR and paint the town hall. With the revised numbers, it would take out the entire reserve. He continued it is a proposed budget. If the town's base budget was not voted up, the new funding would not go into it; however, Rye has been voting up the base budget for years. He thinks it would behoove the Heritage Commission to provide as much of the painting budget as possible. If the Commission raises as much money as they can, it will allow the project to proceed more likely and it would leave more in the reserve fund. He continued that a decision has not been made to accept the grant for the HSR yet. That decision will be made at a later date. His understanding is that the grant for the HSR does not come with the restrictions the grant for the painting would have come with. He pointed out that there is an understanding that there are no strings; however, they have not seen the verbiage yet.

Member White asked what would be a reason for not accepting the grant.

Selectman Musselman replied if it is decided to not fund the other half of the HSR but there is enough money in the budget to be able to do that.

Member Bradshaw asked if it would make it easier for the Selectmen to agree to accept the grant if the Heritage Commission matched the \$12,000 grant for the Historic Structural Report. The Heritage Commission has been focused on the current Town Hall building for the last six years. The Commission needs to know how the building is going to be taken care of.

Selectman Musselman suggested that the money is offered to help pay for the painting of the building, rather than paying for the HSR. He thinks it will make the decision making going forward easier.

Member Bradshaw noted that if the Heritage Commission wants future grants from L-Chip, they have said to get the Historic Structural Report done.

Mr. Choate pointed out the report will tell how to address the outside of the building. Painting the outside of the building may be throwing good money after bad. There may be other things that need to be done to the outside of the building. He also pointed out that the report would also provide information if the building is not salvageable.

Member Bradshaw pointed out that there cannot be an informed vote about the building, and tearing it down, if there is no informative report.

Chair Giblin noted that the Commission has the match for the grant. She asked why they could not match the grant so they could have the report by February.

Selectman Musselman pointed out that it would not be done by February. They have to send out RFP's, get proposals back, choose someone and have them do the work. It is going to take three or four months before it can be done.

Chair Giblin commented that they could still start on the report.

Selectman Musselman stated it is more than likely the Board of Selectmen will proceed with the report. The Commission putting all its money behind that does not change whether or not the Selectmen proceed. There are certainly enough funds but the decision has not been made yet. He continued it will be authorized in late December or January and there will be a deliberative process they will move through for the report. He pointed out the painting cannot be authorized until after town meeting. He noted there is going to be a warrant article for the purchase of the bank property. The Town Clerk's Office and Assessing would move to the bank, which would allow the current town hall building to be reconfigured to create more space. The discussion on that will be what the bank does for Town Hall operation, citizen convenience and how the extra space in the current building allows for things to be done differently. He noted that what is in process right now is to buy the bank building, create some more space and take care of the current building.

## **VI. Other Project Updates**

There was some discussion on the process for the Demolition Review Committee.

## **VII. Old Business**

The Right to Know Law was discussed.

- Member Herlihy noted that the town owns the land the museum sits on. The Historical Society owns the building with a 99 year lease. He has been involved with the Historical Society from the beginning in 1976 and has been the president for the last 11 years. He hopes to pass that on to someone else next year. In fact, he could do a lot more on the Heritage Commission if he wasn't so worn out from the Historical Society. He continued that he has been taking care of the building that belongs to the Historical Society, which is not just the board but its 160 members. He would like some help in taking care of the building. There are things that need to be done each month and ongoing projects throughout the year. There is a constant series of maintenance issues that need to be addressed. Anyone who is interested in helping may contact him through the museum.

- Gail Hughes spoke to the Commission in regards to her interest in becoming an alternate.

**Motion by Mae Bradshaw to add Gail Hughes to the Commission as an alternate.  
Seconded by Rich Davis. All in favor.**

- **Next Meeting – January 4, 2018 – 6:30 p.m., Town Hall**
- **Holiday Gathering – December 8, 2017 – 5:30 p.m.**

**Adjournment**

**Motion by Rich Davis to adjourn at 7:48 p.m. Seconded by Peter White. All in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dyana F. Ledger