

# **TOWN OF RYE – HERITAGE COMMISSION MEETING**

**Thursday, April 5, 2018  
6:30 p.m. – Rye Town Hall**

***Members Present:* Chair Bev Giblin, Peter White, James Tegeder, Alex Herlihy, Selectmen's Representative Keriann Roman, Alternates Gail Hughes and Anne Arnold**

## **I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Giblin called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **II. Introduction of Members to include brief bio from each member for benefit of new Selectmen Representation member**

The members introduced themselves and gave a brief bio.

Chair Giblin seated Alternates Anne Arnold and Gail Hughes for Rich Davis and Mae Bradshaw.

## **III. Approval of Minutes – March 2018**

**Motion by Peter White to approve the minutes of March 1, 2018 as presented. Seconded by Alex Herlihy. All in favor.**

## **IV. Reports**

### **• Treasurer Report – P. White**

Member White read the mission statement for the Rye Heritage Commission.

***The Rye Heritage Commission promotes the preservation, protection and recognition of the Town's historical and cultural resources and locations. In doing so, the commission may advise and collaborate with Rye's boards, local organizations, businesses and individuals regarding cultural sites, historical buildings and preservation projects.***

He stated he completely endorses the mission statement. That is why he is a member of the commission. He asked the other members their position.

Member Herlihy confirms and supports the mission statement.

Member Arnold confirms and supports it.

Chair Giblin stated she supports it.

Member Tegeder confirms and supports it.

Member Hughes confirms and supports it.

Selectmen's Rep. Roman supports it.

Member White reported that as of March 31<sup>st</sup> the commission had \$14,107.50 in the accounts. Approximately, \$10,000 is restricted for Town Hall oriented projects and about \$4,000 are unrestricted funds. The commission has spent 6% of the 2018 Budget over the past three months. The expenses have totaled \$255 of the \$4,100 budget. The Heritage Commission is really financially sound and solid. He continued the commission spent about \$5,000 last year to procure hats, umbrellas and tote bags. About 20% of the product has sold and has covered about 50% of the cost. The commission sold 63 items at the Town Meeting, which really boosted the product sales. The products will also be available for purchase at the Town's Memorial Day Celebration. The fundraiser is well in its way to cover the costs and incurring the profits that were expected.

**Motion by Peter White to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Anne Arnold. All in favor.**

## **V. Fundraising Update and Spring Cruise**

Chair Giblin stated that the commission planned a cruise in the fall of 2017 as a fundraiser event. They did not receive the response needed to hold the cruise and it was decided to postpone it until the spring. The cruise is being held aboard the Thomas Leighton. The boat is a donation so any funds received from ticket sales will be profit. A new Monday night date needs to be set.

It was agreed to schedule the cruise for **Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup>**. The cruise will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., with a cash bar and food available. Alternative date June 4<sup>th</sup>. Tickets may be purchased at the Town Clerk's Office or online through the Rye Heritage Commission Facebook Page.

Member Arnold will write a press release to help promote the event.

## **VI. N.H. Preservation Alliance Window Replacement Workshop**

The N.H. Preservation Alliance is holding a Window Workshop, Saving the Sash, on April 28<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 to 3:00, at the Moffatt-Ladd House in Portsmouth. The workshop will be conducted by Jade Mortimer, Heartwood Window Restoration, and will focus on the techniques of wooden window restoration.

Chair Giblin encouraged any members who are able to attend to let her know, as this would be valuable information for the restoration of the Town Hall windows.

## **VII. Brochure Idea – Guest Denis Lipman**

**Denis Lipman, 484 Brackett Road**, spoke to the commission in regards to his idea for a Town Hall brochure to educate people on the historic significance of the building. He and his wife will be donating their time to putting the brochure together, along with artistic help from resident Susan Polansky. He is seeking the support of the commission and help with ideas for funding.

The commission discussed the project.

**Without making any financial commitment, Peter White made a motion to support Mr. and Mrs. Lipman's initiative in this area. Seconded by Alex Herlihy. All in favor.**

## **VIII. Election Results and Town Hall Update – A. Herlihy, M. Bradshaw, B. Giblin Windows, ADA Compliance, Insulation, Electrical & IT**

Member Herlihy noted that he wrote a letter to the Selectmen asking about the RFP's for painting of the building. The Selectmen agreed to begin that process.

Selectmen's Rep. Roman explained that the timeframe to commence the project is unknown at this time. It will depend on what is received from the RFP's. The thought is that the contractors will not be able to look closely at the building in order to prepare their proposals. They will probably build in an estimate, on the high end, to cover the cost of the wood replacement and for time. The contractor will not know what they are dealing with until they are able to get to the top of the building. There will probably be a set cost for painting but the wood replacement will be unknown.

Chair Giblin stated the commission has raised funds specifically for Town Hall. Some of those funds could certainly be earmarked to help.

Member White explained the funds have been privately raised and are restricted funds that are available to use for this project.

Member Herlihy stated there should be an effort through grants or fundraising to make the building's bathrooms ADA compliant. To him, after the exterior of the building is painted, that is the first priority.

The other members agreed.

## **IX. Graveyard Projects**

Member Herlihy noted that 2012 State Law regulates how historic graveyards can be cared for, either by descendants, neighbors or other people in town. If anyone wants to adopt a graveyard, they must identify themselves to the Heritage Commission so they will know who is taking care of it. There are over 60 graveyards in the Town.

Member Tegeder explained that the Heritage Commission has had N.H. Old Graveyard Association hold workshops in Town where people can learn how to take care of a graveyard. The cubscouts have been guests at the workshop every year. They have learned how to maintain the graveyard area by cutting back the trees, realigning and cleaning the headstones in a way that will not cause further damage.

The commission agreed to have Member Tegeder contact the N.H. Old Graveyard Association to discuss setting up another workshop.

Member Herlihy noted that Louise Tallman, with photos taken by Michael Mittleman, created a list of all the 63 graveyards in the Town.

## **X. Reappointments & Elections**

Rich Davis and Beverly Giblin were reappointed to the Heritage Commission for another three year term. Rich Davis will also need to be reappointed to the Demolition Committee.

**Motion by Alex Herlihy to reappoint Rich Davis to the Demolition Committee. Seconded by Anne Arnold. All in favor.**

**Motion by Alex Herlihy to nominate Bev Giblin as chair, Rich Davis as vice-chair, Mae Bradshaw as clerk and Peter White as treasurer. Seconded by Gail Hughes. All in favor.**

## **XI. Other Project Updates**

- Member Herlihy stated that he took a tour of the Pulpit Rock Tower for the first time about six years ago. He revisited the site last fall. He could not believe what the Friends of Pulpit Rock Tower have accomplished through their fundraising. The change is extraordinary. He suggested inviting Patricia Weathersby (Friends of Pulpit Rock Tower) to a meeting for an update on the work at the tower.
- Chairman Giblin noted that the commission will be serving lemonade and cookies again this year at the Memorial Day Celebration. The commission will organize the event at the May meeting.
- Selectmen's Rep. Roman suggested that the commission come up with an idea to help young children learn about the meaning of Memorial Day, such as a coloring page which may help to open up a conversation with parents. Families may be more encouraged to attend the celebration. The Recreation Department handles the coordination of the event but the Heritage Commission could work with them as there is a history piece that goes along with Memorial Day.

## **XII. Old Business**

- **None**

## **X. Public Comment**

**Joe Cummins, 990 Washington Road**, expressed support for the Heritage Commission.

**Peter Crawford, 171 Brackett Road**, also expressed his support for the commission and their work.

Selectmen's Rep. Roman spoke about the board, committees and select board presenting a united front and working together on the Town Hall in order to gather the support of the community.

**Burt Dibble, 106 Harbor Road**, spoke in regards to his idea of a graveyard tour fundraiser.

- **Next Meeting – May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

## **Adjournment**

**Motion by Peter White to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Seconded by Gail Hughes. All in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dyana F. Ledger