

RYE HERITAGE COMMISSION

**Thursday, May 2, 2019
6:30 p.m. – Rye Town Hall**

Present: Chair Beverly Giblin, Peter White, Mae Bradshaw, Richard Davis, Gail Hughes, Alex Herlihy, Selectman's Rep Bill Epperson, Rich Davis, Alternate Elizabeth Sanborn.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Giblin called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and led the pledge of Allegiance.

II. Member Introduction

III. Approval February Minutes – April 4, 2019

Motion by Elizabeth Sanborn to approve the meeting minutes of April 04, 2019, as presented. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw. 7 – Yes; Selectman Epperson Abstained.

IV. Membership status and changes

Chair Giblin told Rich Davis that she received his email asking to be changed from a regular member to an alternate. Chair Giblin stated that Mr. Davis should send the email to the Board of Selectmen as well.

Motion made by Mae Bradshaw to accept the change of Rich Davis from regular member to alternate member and thanked him for his eight years of services. Seconded by Peter White. All in favor.

Chair Giblin pointed out that Phil Walsh would like to move from alternate to a full member. Member Walsh will have to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen. Chair Giblin will send a letter of recommendation as well.

Motion made by Mae Bradshaw to accept Phil Walsh as a regular member of the Commission. Seconded by Elizabeth Sanborn. All in favor.

V. Demolition Committee – David Choate & Alex Herlihy

Member Herlihy stated that the Demolition Committee has been very busy. He would not be able to give a full report. The highlights are: South Road, the Driftwood Cottages, and the barn at 333 Washington.

Alternate Sanborn reported that tomorrow is the Public Hearing at 333 Washington Road. The property has a barn that is being sold and moved to Vermont and a garage will be built in its place.

Member Herlihy pointed out that there is a New Hampshire Barn Preservation effort to save barns. The key is that if the barns are not being used, they will deteriorate. Even though this barn will be leaving Rye, it has a better chance to survive in Vermont where it will be used.

VI. Treasurer Report, Funding and Billing - Peter White

Treasurer Peter White reported that April was a strong month. As of April 30, 2019, the Commission has \$26,682.98 with another check for \$60.00 that needs to be deposited. He reminded the Commission that \$1,000 will be used to contribute to the Plan New Hampshire event. He pointed out that the Commission's budget is right on track as to where it should be at this time of year. He stated that the annual mailing went out early this year. The Memorial Day Ceremony will be coming up but there is \$150.00 earmarked for that event.

Motion by Alex Herlihy to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Second by Gail Hughes. All in Favor.

Member Bradshaw reminded the Commission that they had pledged up to \$15,000 towards the painting of the Town Hall if needed. She reported that there are drain spouts and gutters that are missing. This will lead to rot on the building. She recommended having member Herlihy do some research to find out how much it would cost to replace them. She pointed out that the Town does not have the budget to replace them. If the Commission wanted to use the money that was not used for the painting maybe they could get the job done.

VII. Memorial Day Event

Member Bradshaw stated that Burt Dibble will be speaking about his military background. She added that she will be hosting the cookie and lemonade table as usual. Lee Arthur of Rye Recreation does the major preparation for the event.

Member Herlihy stated that he will be preparing for the trolley rides.

VIII. L-Chip certification experience – Phil Walsh

Chair Giblin stated that Phil Walsh attended the L-Chip conference on Monday. He sent around an email stating that he is concerned about his ability and time to commit to writing the grant himself. She stated that this is not an issue as the Commission will do it as a group effort.

Member Hughes stated that they have met the requirements because the building is on the State Registry of Historic Places. The total project cost must be \$50,000 or more. They must be prepared to submit, as part of the proposal, a completed historic building assessment with preservation guide lines for its structure.

Member Bradshaw stated that they have all those requirements. The goal for this grant is the restoration of the monumental windows with new glazing, new paint and new storm windows.

Member Hughes stated that the storms will not be wooden. They are to be aluminum frames painted white.

Member Bradshaw stated that she needs to write the grant this month.

Member Hughes pointed out that for any rehabilitation and restoration projects, there should be no likely impediment in executing a stewardship agreement.

Member Bradshaw explained that what this means is that the L-Chip Grant is going to give the Town \$30,000 for the windows for Town Hall. The select board has to agree that they are not going to tear the windows out in the next five years and agree that they will take care of them during the next five years. This has to come from the owner of the building, which is the select board.

Member Hughes asked if Member Bradshaw met with the window representative.

Member Bradshaw stated that she had not. She added that she had given the whole file to Phil Walsh because he was going to the L-Chip conference. She stated that she and Member Walsh will be working on the grant together and will get in touch with the woman. However, her price was about double the other quotes.

Member Hughes pointed out that the window woman's quote was more money because she was doing more work, including replacing the cords in the windows.

Member Bradshaw stated that the type of storm windows that are going to be used will not open so there will be no need to replace the cords in the interior windows.

Member White pointed out that Heritage has committed up to \$15,000.

Member Bradshaw pointed out that other groups have also committed funds, like the Friends of Town Hall; however, Heritage wants to focus their funds on the historical aspects of the restoration.

IX. Rye Day and Goss Farm Events

Chair Giblin reported that the Rye Day event is being postponed, until next year. She stated that it really makes more sense because it is such a large undertaking. There really isn't enough time to do it properly for this year.

Member Herlihy agreed that planning the event a year in advance is a better option. He reported that Selectman Roman is planning to have another meeting this month. The plan is for August of 2020.

Chair Giblin reported that since there is not going to be a Rye Day this year, there are plans to have some type of event at Goss Farm to promote the farm. It will be on a much smaller scale. The Conservation Commission is involved. The event will be on Sunday, September 22nd from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Member Bradshaw pointed out that this is good timing because the Conservation Commission is planning to go out for another \$3 million bond.

Chair Giblin said that this event will be based on a Farmer's Market type atmosphere, only larger. There will also be hamburgers and hotdogs and tours of the farm.

X. Graveyard Projects

Member Herlihy suggested that the Historical Society and the Heritage Commission should get together to host an event to document and highlight the historic aspects of the Central Cemetery.

Member Davis pointed out that walking through the cemetery, a person will come across military headstones where that guy had fought in three different wars. He stated that it is really fascinating.

Member Herlihy stated that a lot of the founding families are in that cemetery. Some of the stones are still not found because they are back in the woods. It would be great to locate them and get pictures and document the locations. He recommended working with a local mason because they are familiar with stone work and can help with the restoration and the cleaning of the stones.

XI. Plan New Hampshire – Mae Bradshaw

Member Bradshaw reported that she will be out of Town on the week of the event.

Member Herlihy report that he will be doing a tour using the trolley. He is also creating a historic exhibit of Rye's center using images from all the pictures at the museum. He is also writing a history about Rye's center, which will be presented.

XII. Old Business - None

XIII. New Business - None

XIV. Next Meeting June 6, 2019

XV. Adjournment

Motion by Rich Davis to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. Seconded by Peter White. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger