

RYE HERITAGE COMMISSION

**Thursday, April 4, 2019
6:30 p.m. – Rye Town Hall**

Present: Beverly Giblin, Peter White, Richard Davis, Gail Hughes, Alternate Phil Walsh, Alternate Anne Richter Arnold and Selectman's Rep Keriann Roman

I. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Giblin called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. and led the pledge of Allegiance.

II. Member Introduction

Ann Arnold was seated for Mae Bradshaw.
Phil Walsh was seated for Alex Herlihy.

III. Approval February Minutes - March 07, 2019

Motion by Peter White to approve the meeting minutes of March 07, 2019. Seconded by Rich Davis. 6- Yes. Selectman's Rep Keriann Roman – Abstained.

IV. Membership status and changes

Peter White stated that he has been sworn in for three more years as a member.

Chair Giblin reminded the members that Mae Bradshaw spoke about a father and son team that is very interested in learning about the history of Rye and wanted to join the Historic Commission. They want to serve together as a team. The son is too young to serve on the Historic Commission because it is a quasi-judicial board. Chair Giblin pointed out that the Heritage Commission has two vacancies for alternates.

The members agreed that it would be a good idea to reach out to the father and son team.

Chair Giblin stated that she would have Member Bradshaw contact them.

V. Demolition Committee – David Choate

Chair Giblin summarized the current activity on the Demolition Committee as Member Choate was unable to attend tonight's meeting. She stated that there are two things in progress at this time. One is the Driftwood Cottages on Route 1A. Demolition has determined that they are not of historical value. She reminded the Commission that when a State wetland permit is filed, it involves the federal permitting processes, which triggers the NHDR Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act. Any structure over 50 years old requires a review.

At the March meeting, Eric Weinrieb and Lynn Monroe of Preservation Company explained that the property has been found eligible for the National Register because of its contribution to the history of tourism on the seacoast of New Hampshire. If a resource that is eligible is adversely affected by a project, mitigation of that action must take place.

Chair Giblin stated that she has written to Ms. Monroe and Eric Weinrieb and asked them to document the tourism in Rye from 1850 to present as a means of mitigation. She added that she is waiting for them to get back to her. She said that Ms. Monroe will probably be reaching out to the Commission for assistance with this project.

Alternate Arnold reported that there is a new exhibit at the Rye Museum called “Fishing, Farming and Fun”, which will have a lot of information about Rye History. It will be all done at the right time for the mitigation document.

Chair Giblin also reported that on South Road there are two houses on the corner of Woodland Road that were built in the 1700’s. She stated that the Demolition Committee has done a tour. There are two wonderful barns associated with them. There will be a public hearing held on April 17, 2019.

Chair Giblin promised to keep the Heritage Commission up to date.

VI. Treasurer Report, Funding and Billing - Peter White

Treasurer Peter White reported that as of March 31, 2019, the Commission has \$22,349 in restricted Town Hall funds. Unrestricted funds are \$4,786 totaling \$27,135. He noted that the Commission has potentially planned to use some of the restricted Town Hall funds on the window project. Mr. White stated that the recent mailer, which was successful, used up the majority of the postage and advertising budget lines in the amount of \$1,658. The Commission’s annual 2019 budget was \$4,100. This leaves a balance of \$2,441. Treasurer White pointed out that this mailer was on budget, however, the Commission has used the money that is usually put towards their annual fund-raising campaign so it may not be possible to send out the traditional mailer this year. Mr. White stated that he read that the window project will be somewhere in the range of \$60,000 of which \$30,000 should come from an L-CHIP grant, with the remaining raised independently. He pointed out that the Heritage Commission could be a big participant in that project.

The Commission agreed that it is time to start using some of the funds for the Town Hall.

Alternate Anne Richter Arnold stated that since they would need \$30,000 for the windows, wouldn’t it make sense to figure out a way to do the annual fund raiser mailing?

Treasurer White suggested other fund raisings would be possible. He pointed out that other groups will also be contributing, such as The Friends of Town Hall.

Motion by Rich Davis to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented. Second by Gail Hughes. All in Favor.

VII. Discussion & Update from Selectman’s Rep – Keriann Roman

Chair Giblin reported that Rye Day, which is like an Old Home Day, is being planned for August 24th. She stated that it will be an opportunity for the Commission to sell their umbrellas, hats and tote bags. She told the Commission that she is in charge of food and corporate sponsorship. She reported that she has a couple of contacts already initiated.

Selectman Roman reported that the next Rye Day meeting will be Friday, April 5, at 3:00 p.m. She reported that she has received a package from Kingston that does a wonderful “Home Day” celebration. It contains every document that they use to plan their event. The Rye Day committee will be reviewing this information together in order to decide if they can really pull this event off in the time that they have. Selectman Roman explained that when the idea first came up, the committee wasn’t aware that it would become as big as they want it to be, so there were no funds appropriated in the budget to get it started. At the meeting on the 5th, the Rye Day committee will decide if this will be an event in 2019 or to wait until 2020. She pointed out that other towns start planning a year in advance.

Selectman Roman announced that Monday, April 8th will be the first select board meeting with new Selectman Bill Epperson. She stated that they will be deciding which committees and commissions that each of them will be the representative for. They will also be talking about what is going to happen to the Town Hall. She stated that there was \$10,000 put into the budget for a study to be done regarding the interior layout of the Town Hall, in order to get the best use from the building. She suggested that it will be fall before the plan is formulated. She told the Commission that she will return with a more detailed report after the Selectmen meet on Monday.

VIII. Election Results Review and Plans Forward

Chair Giblin pointed out that the vote to save Town Hall was very effective. She said that hopefully everyone has gotten the message and that there will be no more threats with a wrecking ball.

Alternate Walsh stated that the vote was 75% to 25%. A landslide!

IX. Windows and other Town Hall projects -On Track-

X. Graveyard Projects

Chair Giblin recommended that the Commission address the graveyard project by June in order to have it in place before Halloween.

XI. Rye Day

Chair Giblin reported that all the governmental units, committee, commissions and boards will have a booth to inform the residents about their work. She stated that as time goes by, she will be asking for members to volunteer to work on this with her. The Rye Day event will be from 11:00 to 4:00 on Saturday, August 24th.

XII. Plan New Hampshire – Mae Bradshaw

Chair Giblin received an email from Member Bradshaw that stated that Plan New Hampshire is moving forward as planned and that they are in the process of doing a fundraiser. She has sent the letter of intent to L-CHIP for \$60,000 for the windows for Town Hall. Chair Giblin announced that Phil Walsh will be attending the training class for L-CHIP. In order to apply for a LCHIP grant, there must be a member of the Commission that has completed the training.

XIII. Old Business

Member Hughes stated that in the February minutes it stated that the quote from Green Mountain Windows for the storm windows was \$8,000 each. She clarified that this was incorrect and for the record the cost would be \$8,000 for all ten storm windows plus labor.

XIV. New Business

Member White reminded the Commission that the Memorial Day Event is coming up and the Commission always sponsors a lemonade and cookie booth. He pointed out that usually Mae Bradshaw and Burt Dibble take the lead on this. Monday, May 27, 2019 is Memorial Day this year.

XV. Next Meeting May 2, 2019

XVI. Adjournment

Motion by Rich Davis to adjourn at 7:23 p.m. Seconded by Peter White. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger