

# **RYE HERITAGE COMMISSION**

**Thursday, March 7, 2019  
6:30 p.m. – Rye Town Hall**

***Present: Beverly Giblin, Peter White, Richard Davis, Mae Bradshaw, Alternate Elizabeth Sanborn and Alternate Phil Walsh.***

## **I. Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Giblin called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. and led the pledge of Allegiance.

## **II. Member Introduction**

Elizabeth Sanborn was seated for Ann Arnold.  
Phil Walsh was seated for Alex Herlihy.

## **III. Approval February Minutes - February 05, 2019**

**Motion by Peter White to approve the meeting minutes of February 05, 2019. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw. All in Favor.**

## **IV. Membership status and changes**

Chair Giblin explained that she and Alex Herlihy are staying on the Demolition Committee for another term. David Choate will be the Chair. Rich Davis is not continuing with the Demolition Committee but will stay on the Heritage Commission. There are no new alternates.

Chair Giblin stated that Frank Hwang has resigned. There are two openings for alternates on the Heritage Commission.

Mae Bradshaw stated that there is 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. Ms. Bradshaw explained that the son is only sixteen. He cannot be on the Historic Commission because it is a quasi-judicial board. However, the son can serve on another Commission, as long as it is not a quasi-judicial board.

Chair Giblin recommended inviting them to the next meeting.

**Alex Herlihy came into the meeting at 6:40 p.m.**

## **V. Graveyard Projects – Guests Paul and David Caswell**

Paul Caswell explained that he had met Mae Bradshaw last fall and she suggested that he attend a meeting of the Heritage Commission regarding a documented family cemetery at 117 Washington Road. He said the family does not own the property any more but there is a family cemetery in the back that has a number of generations. In the Rye Historic Society there is a book that noted it. He reported that all the stones are falling down and he and his brother would like to look into restoring it.

Alex Herlihy explained that the book that is referred to, is two three ring binders, where sixty plus graveyards are documented, with Louise Tillman's notes and Mike Mittelman's photographs.

Mr. Caswell explained that the house sits close to the road with the barn to the left. Their uncle Warren built a cabin in the back. The graveyard is on the boarder of the Caswell property and a farm on Brackett Road. He believes it to be either Foss or Parsons.

Mr. Caswell also told the Commission that the family has a graveyard on Star Island. Two years ago, he and his brother got permission to place an engraved stone marker there.

Member Bradshaw explained that annually the Heritage Commission tries to do a cleanup of at least one old graveyard. She said that the Commission works closely with a New England graveyard expert that brings in volunteers to clean and educate on the right and wrong way of cleaning and setting up the stones, and maybe repairing some of the stones.

Ms. Bradshaw stated that the Commission could go out to the site with the Caswell brothers to assess the issues involved. She explained that the process ideally starts by certifying someone as the caretaker. She pointed out that the Commission filed a public notice about five years ago that they were going to be taking over the care of the abandon graveyards in town and assigning them to caretakers. Hopefully, someone in the family would come forward and claim them.

Member Herlihy explained that a State law passed in 2012 requiring the towns to do this. He stated that the caretaker could come from one of three categories: 1. A descendent; 2. an immediate neighbor; 3. someone that cares about it but has no physical connection to it.

Chair Giblin suggested that in the spring the Commission will contact the property owner to get permission to do the site walk. She will let the Caswells know when it is set up. If the site looks like it is a good site to bring in the graveyard expert for further education and assistance, those arrangements can be made. Also, if the project is too large, Member Bradshaw stated there may be grants available to help.

Mr. Caswell stated that the graveyard has about 6 stones.

Member Sanborn clarified that the site is at 117 Washington Road and that the Caswell brothers have come to the Commission for access and cleanup help.

Mr. Caswell confirmed.

## **VI. Demolition Committee – David Choate**

**Eric Weinrieb of Altus Engineering, representing John Samonas and Samonas Realty Trust,** addressed the Commission. He explained that they are currently doing the redevelopment of the former Driftwood tourist cabins at the intersection of Wallis Road and Ocean Blvd. They are working their way through both the State and local permitting. Mr. Weinrieb explained that they have gained the zoning variance approvals; however, they are being appealed by some of the neighbors. They have also been before the Planning Board. They have applied for and received the stormwater and the shoreline permit. They are also filing for the wetland Permit because they are within the 100 foot tidal buffer setback. He explained that when a State wetlands permit is filed, it involves the federal permit process, which triggers the NHDR section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act. Any structure that is over 50 years old requires a review.

Mr. Weinrieb presented the Commission with plans for an eight unit condominium, year round residential complex.

**Lynn Monroe of Preservation Company** further explained. She said that with the wetland permit is the requirement to fill 106 of the Historic Preservation Act. This means that a determination of National Registry eligibility must be made for anything over 50 years old. She stated that a New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources Inventory form was prepared. It has been reviewed by the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources and has been found eligible for the National Register. It was originally the Atlantic Four Winds cabins. If a resource that is eligible is adversely affected by a project, mitigation of that action must take place. DHR will determine the mitigation but they work with the local Commissions in order to get their input as to what would be good mitigation of the project. Ms. Monroe pointed out that mitigation can come in a lot of shapes and sizes. Sometimes that means documenting the resource to a much higher level for the Historic American Building Survey. This would involve producing measured drawings, photographs and extensive detail documentation of the complex. Mitigation could also mean moving the resource. She added that there are other sources of mitigation, such as interpretative signage, where there is a short narration about the property. One of the things that DHR is leaning towards is a research report that would document the evolution of tourism in Rye along Route 1A, (New Hampshire's first State highway). The mitigation needs to be in direct correlation with the resource. The cabins are more significant to tourism and its location context, than to architectural design. For that reason, she feels that moving one or two of the cabins would not be accepted as the appropriate mitigation by DHR.

Member Bradshaw presented a book about the Historic Resources in North Hampton, New Hampshire. She explained that the book has documented all the historic resources in their town.

Ms. Monroe explained that the book is a town wide area form. She stated that her company is currently doing one for New Castle. She added that this is the kind of documentation she was talking about.

Member Bradshaw asked if this could be done for Rye.

Ms. Monroe clarified that the Commission would rather have a town wide area form than a context of tourism.

The Commission agreed.

Mr. Weinrieb pointed out that this is an extensive project that is way beyond the scope of mitigating this project.

Ms. Munroe suggested that the Commission would have to contact the DHR to discuss this idea. She told the Commission that Nadine Miller is the 106 coordinator.

Member Bradshaw stated that she will contact DHR.

Mr. Weinrieb suggested the sooner the better. He asked that an e-mail be sent to him regarding the Commissions ideas and thoughts.

**Member Sanborn had to leave the meeting at 7:30 p.m.**

**Mr. Weinrieb and Ms. Monroe left the meeting at 7:39 p.m.**

Member Bradshaw stated that she would like to take a look at the buildings at the property.

Member Herlihy stated that historically the property is of value, within the context of the whole grouping of them. He pointed out that there is really no solution to this.

Member Bradshaw stated that at a minimum she will call Nadine and say that the town wants a town wide area form study done. She stated that if she gets push back, she will suggest a study of the tourism and the cabins, hotels and motels in Rye, (Including the Isles of Shoals).

Member Herlihy recommended asking for a document that covers the history of tourism in Rye from 1846 to present. He explained that 1846 was when the first hotel was built.

After further discussion the Commission decided:

Member Bradshaw would talk to Nadine at the DHR to flush out some ideas. At the least the Commission would like a document that covers the history of tourism in Rye from 1846 to present (including the Isles of Shoals).

**Motion by Rich Davis to proceed with the plan as outlined. Seconded by Phil Walsh. All in Favor.**

#### **VII. Treasurer Report, Funding and Billing - Peter White**

Member White stated that he does not have a Treasurer's report as he did not get the data from the Finance Department.

Member Bradshaw stated that the LCHIP workshop will be held Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. She informed the Commission that she will not be able to attend, so another member needs to go to it. This is about the windows for Town Hall. The grant is not due until June 28<sup>th</sup>.

Member Walsh stated that he would attend.

**Motion by Peter White to reimburse Chair Giblin for the printing and mailing of the post cards. This included printing in the amount of \$990.76 and postage in the amount of \$559.69 for a total of \$1,550.45. Seconded by Rich Davis. All in Favor.**

#### **VIII. Strategy for Town Hall and Election Coverage Signs and Mailer**

The mailer has already been sent out but there are an additional two hundred to be handed out. Each member took a portion.

Chair Giblin asked what needs to be done for Election Day.

Member Herlihy stated that someone needs to secure a table in order to sell the merchandise for the Town Hall fund raiser. After some discussion, it was decided that there is not enough people to staff the table.

Member Herlihy suggested that the Historic Society table could sell the items for the Heritage Commission and just keep the money separate. There is coverage at the Historic Table up until 1:00 p.m.

#### **IX. Town BBQ**

Member Herlihy and Member Bradshaw announced that the event will be called "Rye Day" and will be held on Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 to 4:00. Rain date will be Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. It will be a town wide event, not just at Goss Farm. There may be a parade. The Heritage Commission will have a booth.

**X. Plan New Hampshire – Mae Bradshaw**

Member Bradshaw announced that Plan New Hampshire has accepted Rye. The Schedule is as follows:

Friday - May 31, 2019	The consultants will tour the Town center The consultants will meet with Town Officials 3:30 Listening Circles – Rye Junior High School 5:00 to 6:30 there will be a meal planned by the Rye Civic League 6:30 Listening Circles – Rye Junior High School
Saturday – June 1, 2019	Plan New Hampshire will hold their first all day work session until 3:00 p.m. At that time, they will have a read out to the public of their findings.

Member Bradshaw stated that there is an online donating system. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/plannh>. The goal is to raise \$7,500 before April 15, 2019. The Commission has already kicked off the campaign with a donation of \$1,000.

**Motion by Alex Herlihy to confirm that the Heritage Commission is donating \$1,000 to the Plan New Hampshire campaign. Seconded by Bev Giblin. All in favor.**

Member Bradshaw stated that Plan New Hampshire is encouraging the Commission to reach out to local organizations and groups to spread the word about the charrette.

**XI. Old Business**

Member Herlihy asked the Commission to go on-line before the next meeting and read an article in the archives of the New Yorker. The date is July 2, 2018; page 29. The article is the decline in local civic participation in this country. It is suggested that this is because of national ideological followings.

**XII. Next Meeting Thursday, April 4, 2019**

**XIII. Adjournment**

**Motion by Rich Davis to adjourn at 8:19 p.m. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw. All in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dyana F. Ledger