

RYE HERITAGE COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 05, 2019

6:30 p.m. – Rye Town Hall

Present: Chair Beverly Giblin, Peter White, Gail Hughes, Alex Herlihy, Richard Davis, Mae Bradshaw, Selectmen's Rep Keriann Roman, Alternates Elizabeth Sanborn and Phil Walsh

I. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Giblin called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. and led the pledge of Allegiance.

Phil Walsh was seated for Mae Bradshaw.

Selectman Roman asked Chair Giblin if there was anything that the Commission needs at this time from the Select Board. She explained that the Select Board is in a holding pattern, until the March vote. As soon as that is done, the Select Board is planning to send out the RFP to hire the architect, to do the interior design of the Town Hall. She added that it may or may not include the Parsonage. The Parsonage will be a structural study. The Town Hall will be an interior redesign.

Selectman Roman explained that the Heritage Commission has committed to \$10,000, there is \$10,000 in the operating budget, and the Friends of Town Hall have also stated that they will contribute. After the bids come in she will get back to the Heritage Commission with an update. She added that there is no money in the budget this year for the renovation; however, there is money allocated for ADA compliance. However, nothing can be done until the architect work is complete.

Selectman Roman was dismissed from the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

II. Approval January Minutes - January 10, 2019

Motion by Phil Walsh to approve the meeting minutes of January 10, 2019. Seconded by Alex Herlihy. All in Favor.

III. Membership status and changes

Chair Giblin announced that there are two vacant alternate positions that need to be filled.

Member Sanborn suggested asking Michelle Bingham. Alex Herlihy said he would contact her.

IV. Demolition Committee

Chair Giblin noted that Rich Davis is going to send a letter resigning as the chair of the Demolition Committee so that David Choate can take over.

V. Treasurer Report, Funding and Billing - Peter White

Member White reported from the 12/31/18 financials, that the yearend balance in the checking accounts was \$27,035.00. The Commission only spent 60% of their budget in 2018. The January 31, 2019 financials show \$27,135.00 in the checking accounts. Member White added that the 2019 budget is \$4,100.00 with none spent year to date. He also pointed out that the last mailer the Commission sent out cost \$1,100. There were 3,000 flyers sent and 30 were received back, or about 1%. The donations came in at \$1,750.00. He stated that if the Commission is going to do another mailer. He recommended not focusing on the Town Hall for the next mailer.

Member Mae Bradshaw arrived at 6:59 p.m.

Alternate Sanborn suggested not doing another mailer, instead, do some public relations advertising. She recommended a banner or a sign out front of the Town Hall; saying something like "Matching Campaign from March to September, we need your help to continue work on this building." Using some street appeal.

The other members liked this idea and stated that it will be discussed in detail later.

Chair Giblin suggested doing a mailer prior to the vote in March instead of the usual signs.

Member Bradshaw suggested not sending the mailer to all 3,000 households but just to the 1,500 to 1,600 registered voters.

Member White reported that Elite Printing's invoice from the November's flyer was overlooked and not paid yet.

Motion by Alex Herlihy to pay Elite Printing. Seconded by Phil Walsh. All in favor.

Motion by Rich Davis to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Seconded by Alex Herlihy. All in favor.

VI. Review of Deliberative Session

Member Bradshaw reported that warrant article 6 was amended to remove the requirement to use R.A. Schaefer and D.M. White Architects. Also, the amount was changed to \$5.9 million to reflect the interest as well as the principal. Member Bradshaw also reported that warrant article number 31 was amended to allow the Selectmen to proceed with the projects that are currently being worked on for improving the Town Hall in respects to the ADA compliance and the interior design.

VII. Strategy for Town Hall Signs and Mailers

Chair Giblin reported that the Friends of Town Hall are planning to do a sign so it may be a waste of money to do a second sign. She recommended that the Commission consider doing another mailer with a new picture of the Town Hall instead. The Commission needs to decide what the message will be.

Member Sanborn recommended that the mailer be complimentary to the sign. Stressing that the voters need to get out and vote to save the Town Hall once more. She also said that it should say what has been accomplished and what is going to happen next.

The Commission all agreed that the mailer should be worded with a positive message.

Member White recommended using words such as; “Fund Raising” and “Grants”.

The Commission also suggested words such as; “Progress”, “Preservation”, “Plan in Place”, “Partnership”, and “Vote”.

After a lengthy discussion, the Commission decided to keep it clean and simple. On the front of the card there will be a picture of the Town Hall, all painted, with the words “Vote No on Article 6” at the bottom. The back of the card will have the words;

- Plan
- Partnership
- Progress
- Preservation
- Vote

Member Bradshaw suggested putting the words in a wheel with the words: “VOTE March 12th” in the center.

Chair Giblin suggested that wording on the front that says, “VOTE NO ON ARTICLE 6”.

The Commission agreed. They also decided to send it to all households and to also order two hundred more to pass out at candidates’ night and other events prior to the vote.

Chair Giblin stated she would send out a mockup of the card to the Commission members.

Member Sanborn suggested on the back, at the top, the words, “We’re Making Progress”.

Motion by Phil Walsh to move forward with the mailer to be sent out to all the residents of Rye. Seconded by Peter White. All in favor.

Member Herlihy pointed out that with only 1,500 to 1,600 voters, there is not enough local participation for the citizens. There is a program on Thursday, February 7th for a film and discussion called “Communities and Consequences”. Which focuses on the aging of New Hampshire, lack of housing, and exodus of the working population (particularly the youth). He announced that the Civic League is also hosting another presentation on April 10th at the Rye Public Library at 6:30. There is a political science professor from UNH that is coming to speak on the same subject. There will be discussion on what some towns have done to turn things around to get more people engaged in their community.

Member Bradshaw announced that both the Heritage and the Historic Commissions have articles that are due for the Town Newsletter that will be released just before the town vote. She recommended that one of the Commissions should write about the Town Hall window project. Ms. Bradshaw pointed out that the window project is a Heritage Project so it would be appropriate for the Heritage Commission to write about it.

Chair Giblin suggested that since Member Hughes has taken the lead on the window project that maybe she would like to collaborate with her on writing the article.

Member Bradshaw stated that there is a grant proposal to put the Town Hall on the Federal Register so the Historic Commission’s Article could include that information.

VIII. Window Report and Review - Gail Hughes

Member Hughes stated that she met with Allison Hardy from Window Woman, of Amesbury MA. The Window Woman Company was recommended by Ground Roots and specializes in restoration and repairs of historic windows. Ms. Hardy reviewed each individual window. Ms. Hughes reported that Ms. Hardy stated that the windows in the front stairway are from 1839. The windows on the sides are newer, probably between 1930 to 1960. The windows on the front are well built and worth restoring. The storm windows are in good condition. Ms. Hardy does not feel that the storm windows need to be replaced. Ms. Hardy added that whoever installed them, made a good choice, with the fixed panel on the top and the functional panel on the bottom. Only the 1839 windows have ropes and pulleys. The estimated costs for 10 - 20 over 20 windows is \$6,250.00 per window. A 20 over 10 window would be \$4,675.00. The total for all would be \$60,925.00. The work would take approximately 6 to 8 weeks to complete all 10 windows. The windows would be taken down and restored one at a time.

Member Hughes also met with the representative from Green Mountain Window Company from Vermont. She stated that preservation quality windows do not have to be wood. If the storm windows are not wood, it will not impair the ability to get the building on the National Registry. The estimate from Green Mountain Window Company is for wooden storm windows that are more expensive and require more maintenance. The estimate for each 20 over 20 window was \$796.00, or for the 20 over 10 windows was \$550.00, which does not include the installation. The total would be \$6,351. This price is with just a primer. If the windows were to be factory painted, it would be another \$2,000. So, it would be approximately \$8,000 per window plus labor.

Member Bradshaw stated that she is writing an application for a grant to do the windows. She suggested that the Commission should explore more about the storm windows. She added that it is not a good idea to use up all the money that the Commission has raised because it is important to keep some seed money for the grants. The Grant application is due in March. She recommended getting a detailed proposal from the companies that are willing to do both jobs. Then include the proposals with the written grant application. If the grant is awarded there will most likely be a grant match requirement.

Member Hughes reported that all that is needed is a two fixed paneled, low grade E, window. They do not have to be wooden.

Member Sanborn pointed out that if the storm windows are the focus, and the project isn't that much money, maybe there could be a fundraiser done in the community, "A Fund the Need", Fund Raiser.

Member Bradshaw suggested getting a grant from L-Chip or Moose Plate.

IX. Plan New Hampshire - Mae Bradshaw

Member Bradshaw announced that Plan New Hampshire is scheduled for May 31st and June 1st.

X. Graveyard Projects and Guest for March meeting

XI. Next Meeting Thursday, March 7, 2019

XII. Adjournment

Motion by Rich Davis to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. Seconded by Phil Walsh. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger