

RYE HERITAGE COMMISSION

Thursday, February 6, 2020

6:30 p.m. – Rye Town Hall

***Present: Chair Phil Walsh, Treasurer Peter White, Gail Hughes, Alex Herlihy
Alternates: Anne Richter Arnold, Elizabeth Sanborn***

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Walsh called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Member Introduction

The Members introduced themselves.

Chair Walsh extended a Thank you to Bev Giblin for her four years of service as the Chair to the Heritage Commission. He expressed that she has done a lot for the Commission and will continue as a great asset to the Commission as a member.

II. Review and Approval of January 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes

**Motion by Peter White to accept the Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2020 as presented.
Seconded by Gail Hughes. All in Favor.**

III. Demolition Committee Update

Member Sanborn stated that there are currently no updates. The Committee is still working on the procedure policy. They are working on having the demolition permit to be the last permit to be issued in the whole building process.

IV. Vacancies on Commission:

Chair Walsh stated that the Commission needs to vote on moving one of the alternates into the vacant full-members position.

Alternate Member Sanborn nominated Alternate Arnold to fill the position.

Ms. Arnold will write a letter of interest to the Board of Selectmen and Chair Walsh will write a letter of recommendation.

The Commission will vote on the appointment at the March meeting.

A. Alternate Position – Frank Lagana

Chair Walsh reported that he received a letter of interest from Frank Lagana. Chair Walsh stated that Mr. Lagana has extensive knowledge of WWII history and is very interested in getting involved with

the Town. Mr. Lagana had sent his resume. Chair Walsh stated that he felt that Mr. Lagan would be a great asset; particularly with the Pulpit Rock Tower. Chair Walsh stated that unless anyone has an objection; he would like to send a letter of recommendation to the Board of Selectmen for Mr. Lagana, to start the process.

Motion by Peter White to appoint Frank Lagana as an alternate. Seconded by Anne Richter Arnold. All in Favor.

B. Vice Chair Position

Chair Walsh reported that he has spoken to Member Hughes about taking the position of Vice Chair and she has agreed to step into the position.

Motion by Phil Walsh to appoint Gail Hughes as the Vice Chair of the Heritage Commission. Seconded by Anne Richter Arnold. All in Favor.

V. Treasurer Report - Peter White

Treasurer Peter White stated that the Commissions cash balance is \$26,512; of that amount \$19,017 is allocated to the restoration of Town Hall; approximately \$7,500 is unrestricted. The 2020 budget is similar to last years at \$4,100. Most of the line items are maintenance type items, however the postage and printing of the annual fund-raising flyer, is where the Commission gets the most benefit.

Treasure White explained that each year, the Commission has done an outreach program to the community with some of the Commission's goals and initiatives, and has added a fund-raising element to it. He suggested that this would be especially beneficial if the Commission is planning to do something with Pulpit Rock Tower.

Treasurer White stated that the Commission has had success with selling the Rye umbrellas, totes and hats. He reported that they will probably be running out of inventory this year. They had originally spent \$6,000 and the proceeds are going to be about \$15,000.

Motion by Phil Walsh to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Seconded by Alex Herlihy. All in Favor.

VI. Other Business

Member Sanborn volunteered to work on election day to attended the Heritage table.

Member Herlihy stated that they had not requested a table this year. He suggested that the Historic Society does have a table and could sell the Heritage items at their table.

VII. Review of LCHIP and Next Steps

Chair Walsh gave a recap of non-approval of the LCHIP grant:

LCHIP was very happy with the grant application that the Commission had submitted. They were happy to see that the Town Hall is no longer in jeopardy. They felt that the application was well

constructed and the Town made its case for the windows. However, there were sixty to seventy applications, and only so much money to disperse. He suggested that about half of the applications were turned down. He reminded the Commission that they had known that there would be obstacles during the process. One thing that LCHIP would have liked to see, which the Commission did not have; was evidence of Town support of the project. Another factor that played against the approval of the LCHIP grant was that Rye has more resources than some of the other Town's that were applying.

Chair Walsh suggested that the next step should be to decide if the Commission wants to proceed with it again. Or more importantly, does the Commission want to take the next step in addressing just the storm window portion of this project. He added that if the Commission wants to move forward to doing any kind of window restoration in the future, that could possibly be another grant application. This would have to be decided on fairly quickly. The next application will be due by June 26th.

Chair Walsh recommended that if the Commission does another grant, that they create a subcommittee to work on the application.

There was further discussion regarding applying for another LCHIP grant. It was suggested that by taking the storm windows out and just focusing on the restoration of the historic windows, it would be more in tune with what LCHIP likes to see.

Burt Dibble, 106 Harbor Road and Member of the Friends of Town Hall spoke to the Commission regarding the restoration of the Town Hall windows. He stated that his understanding of the costs of the restoration was \$24,000.

VIII. Storm Windows Project

Vice Chair Hughes presented the Commission with a proposal from Ricci Lumber for the storm windows. She explained that these windows are just regular storm windows and not the same as the one originally proposed by Granite State Glass Company. The original storm windows were just two large panels attached to the outside of the historic windows and secured with clips. They did not open or close. The warranty was for a period of 15 years.

Ricci's proposal is for regular store windows with Low-E glass; fitted top panel, but the lower panel can be raised. The price is \$11,132.22. The warranty for the glass is 20 years. These are Coastal Windows.

Granite State's proposal was for \$20,339. These windows are from Allied Window Company in Ohio.

Chair Walsh recommended that the members take the information under advisement. There are two very acceptable proposals that should be reviewed. At the meeting in March, the Commission should take a vote on the proposals in move forward with the storm windows.

During further discussion there was a concern about spending all of the funds set aside for the Town Hall. However, Member Sanborn pointed out that if the cost of the storm window project was split with the Friends of Town Hall, there would still be funds available to move on to the next project.

Burt Dibble pointed out that if the Commission can show that the Town, Heritage, and the Friends of Town Hall are all working on the storm windows, it will help with the application to LCHIP for the application for the grant for the restoration of the historic windows.

Member Sanborn stated that to define the next action steps both the Commission and the Friends of Town Hall need to earmark funds to initiate this project. She asked Dr. Dibble what kind of a commitment could the Commission get from the Friends of Town Hall.

Dr. Dibble stated that the Commission should present the Friends of Town Hall a request for the funds. He stated that he can not spoke for the Board. He stressed that the Town should also be a part of this commitment, because he feels that this the way to a successful LCHIP application.

Member White stated that should be part of phase two with the restoration piece.

Motion by Peter White that the Heritage Commission allocate the amount of \$6,132.22 from the restricted Town Hall funds for the purchase of storm windows for the Town Hall and that they respectfully request that the Friends of Town Hall allocate the amount of \$5,000 for the same. This will be phase one, to be done as soon as possible. Seconded by Alex Herlihy.

Member Arnold expressed concern that the storm windows many have to be taken back down in order for the restoration of the historic windows to be done.

Dr. Dibble explained that the historic windows will be taken off from the inside. It was the person that may do the restoration, that recommended having the storms in place, so that they can remove the historic windows for a period of time and the building will still be protected from the weather.

Member Sanborn made a friendly amendment to the motion: **condition that the windows are architecturally correct and will work with the historic windows, at the price quoted.**

Peter White accepted the amendment as presented by Member Sanborn. Alex Herlihy seconded the amendment. All in Favor.

IX. Old Business

A. Pulpit Rock Tower

Chair Walsh asked if there has been any further discussion on Pulpit Rock Tower.

Member Herlihy stated that Patricia Weathersby came and addressed the Commission and that there really has not been any further discussion since then.

Further concern of the Commission is that the Commission along does not have the physical (staff or volunteers) or financial resources to maintain the tower. They would like to see some commitment from the Town, making this a joint venture.

Alex Herlihy stated that he would contact Ms. Weathersby, to refresh his memory on what where the next steps.

Chair Walsh stated that he will review the minutes and the recording of that meeting to get an update, in order to move it forward.

B. Graveyard Projects

Member Sanborn stressed that there has not been enough attention to these projects over the years and she feels that the Commission could step up the efforts in this regard. She pointed out that this is the kind of event that could add some creditability to this Commission, that is not just Town Hall related.

Member White pointed out that there are 66 individual graveyards in Town. The first initiative was an adopt a graveyard; were they reach out to neighbors to adopt a graveyard near them to maintain it. There were four or five graveyards that were adopted. Since then they have tried to have an annual event to do some cleanup of the others.

Member Herlihy also reported that the Town have official turned over the management of the graveyards to the Heritage Commission and the Commission went through a long legal process to locate any descendants.

Member Herlihy stressed that the problem is that there are not enough volunteers.

Member Arnold asked if there is a specific proposal of what is the Graveyard Project. Maybe the Commission could review it and at another meeting talk about how it could be resurrected and moved forward.

Member Herlihy stated that he will write an article for the April issue of the Rye magazine about the program.

Chair Walsh stated that he will be writing an article for the Town newsletter and will include information about the graveyard project in that article as well.

Member Sanborn stated that the Commission has to Own the Project.

Member Herlihy said that one thing that would be a great impact would be if someone could take the two volumes of photos and notes from Louise Tallman (documentation of the 66 graveyards), that are currently at the museum and digitalize them. It would be time consuming but extremely valuable.

Chair Walsh stated that he would take up the task.

Further discussion included creating a map with the graveyard locations.

X. Next Meeting – March 5, 2020, 5:30

XI. Adjournment

Motion by Peter White to adjourn at 7:47p.m. Seconded by Anne Richter Arnold. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dyana F. Ledger