

## **RYE HERITAGE COMMISSION**

**Thursday, November 19, 2020**

**4:30 p.m. – Via ZOOM**

***Members Present:* Chair Philip Walsh, David Choate, Peter White, Alex Herlihy, Anne Richter-Arnold, Alternates Elizabeth Sanborn, and Elizabeth Lantz, and Selectmen's Rep Bill Epperson**

### **I. READING of ATTESTATION**

Statement by Phil Walsh:

As a Chair of the Rye Heritage Commission, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

- a) Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video and other electronic means. We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the Historic District Commission have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone number: 646-558-8656 and Password: 258147 or by clicking on the following website address: [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com) ID #865-7519-6321.
- b) Public notice has been provided to the public for the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom telephonically. Instructions have also been provided on the Town of Rye website [town.rye.nh.us](http://town.rye.nh.us)
- c) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access. If anyone has a problem, call 603-964-5523 or e-mail at [JIreland2@ryenh.us](mailto:JIreland2@ryenh.us).
- d) Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting.  
In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

Roll call attendance of Commission:

- Peter White
- Anne Richter-Arnold
- Alex Herlihy
- Elizabeth Sanborn
- David Choate
- Bill Epperson (wife is in the house)
- Elizabeth Lantz
- Philip Walsh

*Note: The Members stated where they were located and confirmed that they were the only ones in the room for the meeting, except as noted.*

Chair Walsh seated Alternate Elizabeth Sanborn for Member Bev Giblin.

## **II. Ocean Wave House Gazebo Discussion**

At the October 12, 2020 meeting, Member Herlihy informed the commission of a historic gazebo currently housed on the property of the former Ocean Wave Hotel. Innkeeper Doug Palardy has bought the current Pebble Cove Inn and is in process of restoring the property. He is looking to rehome the gazebo.

Member Herlihy reported that their request for a location for the gazebo is on the Select Board's agenda for Monday, November 23, 2020. One of the places that they are considering for the gazebo, is in front of the Town Hall on the grassy area on the cemetery side of the stone wall. This will take some research because somewhere in that area is the leach field for the Town Hall. However, there is enough room for both in that location.

Member Choate noted that he visited the gazebo with Steve Bedard. Mr. Bedard does not think it be a problem to move the gazebo. They will cut it under the roof line, place the roof on a flatbed and then lay the rest of it on its side on the flatbed. They would secure it and move it over the road. Mr. Bedard didn't feel it would be a problem with DOT, especially this time of year. They may ask for the Rye Police Department to give a courtesy escort (if necessary). The cost to move it will be approximately \$1,000. Member Choate recommended that the Commission vote up to \$1,500 in order to have enough to cover the costs without needing a second vote to complete the project. In order to restore the gazebo, it would take about two to three days' work, maybe a week, and about \$2,000 to \$3,000. Worst case, the total projects costs would be \$5,000. He continued that the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance has received funding from the 1772 Foundation and is soliciting letters of interest until December 1<sup>st</sup> to fund projects up to \$10,000. The Rye Historical Society must be the applicant, it cannot be the municipality. The determination will be December 8<sup>th</sup>, as to whether or not the Historical Society will be invited to submit a full proposal.

Member Herlihy stated that the Rye Historical Society officially agreed to not participate in this because they have too much going on and they don't have the bandwidth to do it. He added that it is more appropriate for the Heritage Commission because their charge is to accept, purchase and maintain historic structures. He understands the applicant must be a non-profit. As long as this is put in a formal request to the Board of the Historical Society and there is no obligation to the

Society, they may not be averse to just follow the guidelines of the grant. Member Herlihy will make that inquiry.

Member Richter-Arnold, as the treasurer of the Friends of Town Hall, recommended asking them to be the applicant.

The Commission agreed that this is a project that they want to do and that this is in their wheelhouse as the Heritage Commission. They would like to do everything possible to try to make it happen.

Chair Walsh recommended going ahead with the request to Friends of Town Hall.

Member Choate promised to forward the paperwork from the Preservation Alliance to Member Richter-Arnold.

There was discussion regarding the foundation under the gazebo. It was decided that the \$1,500 estimate should cover the cost of the foundation. The goal would be to restore the gazebo in the spring. After further discussion about the costs of restoration and the potential of getting the funding from the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, the Commission agreed that it would be appropriate to hold additional funds from their unrestricted money in their checking account in reserve for potential upkeep and maintenance as needed.

Note: *Member Gail Hughes joined the meeting at 4:55 p.m.*

**Motion by Elizabeth Sanborn to approve the use of \$1,500 for the move of the gazebo and to reserve an additional \$2,000 for the potential upkeep and maintenance, until the grant money is available. Seconded by Anne Richter-Arnold.**

**Roll Call vote: Anne Richter-Arnold – Aye; Alex Herlihy – Aye; Peter White – Aye; Elizabeth Sanborn – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Elizabeth Lantz – Aye; David Choate – Aye; Philip Walsh – Aye; Gail Hughes – Abstained**

**Motion Passed**

There was discussion is regards to a new location for the gazebo.

**Motion by Member White to advocate to move the gazebo to the town owned land adjacent to the Town Hall, assuming that it is acceptable with the Superintendent of the Cemetery, subject to any leach field or septic issues. Seconded by David Choate.**

**Roll Call Vote: Anne Richter-Arnold – Aye; Alex Herlihy – Aye; Peter White – Aye; Elizabeth Sanborn – Aye; Bill Epperson – Abstained; Elizabeth Lantz – Aye; David Choate – Aye; Philip Walsh – Aye; Gail Hughes - Abstained.**

**Motion Passed**

### **Adjourn**

**Motion by Elizabeth Sanborn to adjourn at 5:07 p.m. Seconded by Alex Herlihy.**

**Roll Call Vote: Anne Richter-Arnold – Aye; Alex Herlihy – Aye; Peter White – Aye; Elizabeth Sanborn – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Elizabeth Lantz – Aye; David Choate – Aye; Philip Walsh – Aye; Gail Hughes - Aye.**

**Motion passed**

Respectfully Submitted, Dyana F. Ledger