

RYE HERITAGE COMMISSION
Thursday, December 10, 2020
3:30 p.m. – Via ZOOM

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

Chair Walsh called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

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:095164 or by clicking on the following website address: www.zoom.com ID #827-2101-5246.
- 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
- 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@town.rye.nh.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:

- Philip Walsh
- Peter White
- Anne Richter Arnold
- Frank Lagana
- Elizabeth Sanborn
- David Choate
- Elizabeth Lantz
- Bill Epperson

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

Chair Walsh seated Alternate Elizabeth Sanborn for Member Gail Hughes.

II. Review of Minutes from November 12th & 19th Meeting

**Motion by Bill Epperson to accept the meeting minutes of November 12, 2020 as written.
Seconded by David Choate.**

**Roll Call Vote: Selectman Epperson – Aye; David Choate – Aye; Frank Lagana – Aye; Peter White – Aye; Anne Richter Arnold – Aye; Philip Walsh – Aye; Alex Herlihy – Aye; Elizabeth Sanborn - Aye.
Motion passed.**

**Motion by Bill Epperson to accept the meeting minutes of November 19, 2020 as written.
Seconded by David Choate.**

**Roll Call Vote: Selectman Epperson – Aye; David Choate – Aye; Peter White – Aye; Anne Richter Arnold – Aye; Philip Walsh – Aye; Alex Herlihy – Aye; Elizabeth Sanborn – Aye.
Motion passed.**

III. Treasurer's Report: December 2020

Treasurer Peter White reported that the Heritage Commission has \$22,985 in their checking account with \$15,468 restricted for town Hall and \$7,516 unrestricted. There is also \$5,000 of inventory (mostly hats) to sell for fundraising. He also reported that there is 72% of the 2020 budget remaining. There is an opportunity to do a fundraising mailer. There is \$800 still available for advertising and printing. The 2021 budget will remain at \$4,850 and has been reviewed and approved by both the Budget Committee and the Selectmen.

Note: Member Gail Hughes entered the meeting at this time.

There was discussion regarding the \$2,000 that was earmarked at the last meeting for the gazebo. Treasurer White stated that those funds would be taken from the unrestricted balance. It was

decided that the \$2,000 should be restricted separately as an ongoing project fund. The adjustment to the treasurer's report would be as follows:

- \$15,468 Restricted for Town Hall
- \$ 3,500 Restricted for Gazebo Project
- \$ 4,016 Unrestricted

There was additional discussion regarding getting the inventory of hats out in time for the holidays. Treasurer White reminded the members that the mailers in the past were all focused on raising money for a particular project. He felt that the mailer should be focused on raising money for the maintenance of the gazebo. The product that they have to sell doesn't merit a mailer and is best sold at community events. He would like to keep the mailer to the protocol of having a specific project that's important to the Town that people contribute too.

Selectman Epperson suggested advertising the hats on the Town's Facebook page.

Chair Walsh asked if there would be any opposition to the Heritage Commission creating a flyer to put in the Town Hall advertising the hats and other inventory for sale.

Selectman Epperson saw no problem with that at all. He suggested that there could possibly be a small display of the merchandise as well.

Chair Walsh stated that he would take the lead on this.

Motion by Elizabeth Sanborn to approve the Treasurer's report as amended. Seconded by Bill Epperson.

Roll Call Vote: Selectman Epperson – Aye; David Choate – Aye; Peter White – Aye; Anne Richter Arnold – Aye; Philip Walsh – Aye; Alex Herlihy – Aye; Elizabeth Sanborn – Aye; Frank Lagana - Aye.

Motion passed.

IV. Demolition Review Committee Update

Member Choate stated that there were no updates at this time from the Demolition Review Committee; however, they are scheduled to meet Friday 12/11. They will be discussing two buildings. One is right across the street from the Town Hall at 17 Central Ave. That is not a demolition. They are adding dormers to the front of the house and are taking off the roof. The other is a non-descript, seasonal place on East Atlantic Ave. He didn't feel that that was going to be of any issue. The only other one that he has heard about is on Causeway, which the Commission has no jurisdiction over because it is in Rye Beach. It is a beautiful 1700's vintage house. The owners seem to have some interest in listening to alternative views to their contractor, who said it had to be torn down. The owners are currently in Florida; but on their return, Member Choate would like to make arraignments for Steve Bedard to go through the property. So even though they do not have jurisdiction on the property, they would like to provide some friendly advice and at least provide historical documentation on the property.

Member Herlihy reported that his sources who know the house very well have stated that it has gone to seed and that termites have done a very bad job on it. He is not sure if it has gone beyond the pale.

V. New Business

A. Pulpit Rock Tower Follow up

Chair Walsh reminded the members that he had forwarded to them the priorities for the tower, from the Friends of Pulpit Rock Tower, for the coming year. Ms. Weathersby felt that it would be helpful to get some contractors or people that would be willing to donate time to work on the some of the projects, as they will be costly. However, they are also going to get independent estimates as well, in order to bring down the cost to a more reasonable level.

Chair Walsh asked the members if anyone knew of any contractors and individuals who would be interested that the Heritage Commission could reach out too. He described the lists of priorities in two different categories; the next year was to protect the Tower from the elements as follows:

- Seal Open pipe penetration on the roof
400.00
- Repair improperly terminated roofing flashings and seams
1,500.00
- Repair or Replace window hardware and preform minor adjustments to window frames
1,200.00
- Recoat Wood at the penthouse window frame
2,000.00
- Repair door to roof top penthouse and paint enclosure to improve weather performance
1,400.00

Large Cost Items are:

- Concrete Repairs
1,000.00
- Repair and reinforce concrete at the concrete slabs at the interior
45,000.00
- Roofing Repairs – guardrail
10,000.00
- Replace the roof membrane
68,000.00

Chair Walsh spoke about the importance of the Tower and its history. He stated that he and Ms. Weathersby spoke about generating interest with the Town's people and that when the time was right, having a press release that could promote the project to the community at large.

B. Gazebo Discussion; next steps, fundraising

Chair Walsh thanked members Herlihy and Choate for taking the lead in moving the gazebo. He also mentioned that there was a nice article in the Portsmouth Herald documenting the Heritage's

involvement in the event and the Town's ownership. He asked member Choate where they stand as to winterizing it.

Member Choate stated that Steve Bedard didn't feel that it needed to be covered as it had been outside for many years, so another winter will not be a problem. Mr. Bedard also stated that the top can be repaired, but the bottom is too far gone and will need to be replicated. Member Choate stated that he will get the price for this work.

Selectman Epperson's wife took pictures of the gazebo and the members felt it would be nice to have the pictures and a link to the article in the Portsmouth Herald on the Heritage page of the Town's website.

Chair Walsh recommended that the Commission do a mailer to raise the funds for the gazebo restoration. He stated that he would be happy to take the lead on the project. He will present a draft flyer to the members at the next meeting. The goal would be to have it go out the last part of January, in time for the deliberative session.

Member Richter-Arnold said that she would make the gazebo the feature for the next Town Hall Tale. She will direct people on how they can contribute.

C. Louise Tallman Award Presentation

Mae Bradshaw is the recipient of the 2020 Louise Tallman Award. Chair Walsh had sent her a letter notifying her officially and recognizing all her efforts over the years in Town as it relates to preservation issues. Chair Walsh also sent Ms. Bradshaw a lovely vase of flowers.

Chair Walsh presented Ms. Bradshaw with the updated plaque and told her it will be displayed at the Town Hall tomorrow. He stated: *"The Heritage Commission could think of no one more deserving of this honor. You have been a tireless advocate for preservation in town. All your efforts, in regards to historic buildings and just being how you are, has not gone unnoticed. You are a worthy recipient and it is our honor and great pleasure to name you for this award. I want to thank you for all you have done and all you will continue to do for this great town of ours. Mae Bradshaw is the next recipient of the Louise Tallman award for the Preservation of Historic Properties. Congratulations and we can't wait to see what you will be up to next."*

Selectwoman Bradshaw stated that this is truly one of the greatest honors that she has ever received. She added that she loves the Town and its historic nature. She intends to keep working in this direction for as long as she has the energy to do so. She added, "I really appreciate this, Thank you, all."

Note: Member Beverly Giblin entered the meeting at this time.

Member Herlihy invited anyone on the Commission who is interested to look at the draft of his updated Rye History.

Member Hughes told the Commission about a book that she came across called the New Hampshire Historic Seacoast. It was written by a lady called Eva Spears. It can be obtained from a printing

company in Littleton, NH. Lee Memorial Library also has a copy. She is going to try to get a copy for the Commission. She said that she has read a lot of it and it has a lot about Rye in it.

Adjourn

Motion by Elizabeth Sanborn to adjourn at 4:48 p.m. Seconded by Gail Hughes.

Roll Call Vote: Philip Walsh – Aye; David Choate – Aye; Alex Herlihy – Aye; Elizabeth Sanborn – Aye; Bev Giblin – Aye; Anne Richter Arnold – Aye; Gail Hughes – Aye; Elizabeth Lantz – Aye; Selectman Epperson – Aye; Peter White – Aye; Frank Lagana - Aye.

Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted
Dyana F. Ledger