

RYE HERITAGE COMMISSION

Thursday, January 14, 2021

3:30 p.m. – Via ZOOM

Members Present: Chair Philip Walsh, David Choate, Peter White, Gail Hughes, Peter White, Alex Herlihy, and Alternates, Elizabeth Sanborn and Elizabeth Lantz.

Chair Walsh called the meeting to order at 3:32 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:2581741 or by clicking on the following website address: www.zoom.com ID #646-558-8656.
- 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@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:

- Phil Walsh
- Gail Hughes
- Peter White
- Alex Herlihy
- David Choate
- Elizabeth Sanborn
- Elizabeth Lantz

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 Anne Richter Arnold.

II. Welcome

III. Member Introductions

IV. Review of Minutes from December 10, 2020

The following corrections were noted:

- Page 2; first line in the Treasurer's report - the "t" in town Hall should be capitalized.
- Page 3; Last Sentence reads: 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~~.
It should read: He would like to keep the mailer to the protocol of having a specific project that's important to the Town, that people contribute to.
- Page 4; under Demolition Review Committee Update it reads: The only other on that he has heard about is ~~on~~ Causeway, which the Commission has no jurisdiction over because it is in Rye Beach.
It should read: The only other on that he has heard about is at 60 Causeway, which the Commission has no jurisdiction over because it is in Rye Beach.
- Page 4; under Demolition Review Committee Update it reads: So even though they do not have jurisdiction on the property; they would like to provide some friendly advice and at less ~~provide~~ historical documentation on the property.
It should read: So even though they do not have jurisdiction on the property; they would like to provide some friendly advice and at less obtain historical documentation on the property.
- Page 5; under Gazebo Discussion; next steps, fundraising it reads: 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.
- It should read: He also mentioned that there was a nice article in the Portsmouth Herald documenting the Heritage Commission's involvement in the event and the Town's ownership.

Motion by Elizabeth Sanborn to accept the meeting minutes of December 20, 2020 as amended. Seconded by Gail Hughes.

Roll Call Vote: Phil Walsh – Aye; Gail Hughes – Aye; Peter White – Aye; Alex Herlihy – Aye; David Choate – Aye; Elizabeth Sanborn – Aye; Elizabeth Lentz – Aye. Motion passed.

V. Treasurer’s Report: January 2021

Treasurer Peter White reported that at year end, the Heritage Commission had \$21,528 in their checking account with \$15,510 restricted for Town Hall and \$6,017 unrestricted. Of the unrestricted funds, the Commission has earmarked \$3,500 for the gazebo project, should it be needed. Chair Walsh has gotten a quote for three thousand flyers from New England Printing in the amount of \$790. The mailing will be approximately \$400. The mailer will be coming from the Commission’s operating budget. There is also approximately \$5,000 of inventory (mostly hats) to sell for fundraising. The cost to move the gazebo was \$1,500 and it was paid in December.

Motion by Elizabeth Sanborn to approve the Treasurer’s report as presented. Seconded by Gail Hughes.

Roll Call Vote: Phil Walsh – Aye; Gail Hughes – Aye; Peter White – Aye; Alex Herlihy – Aye; David Choate – Aye; Elizabeth Sanborn – Aye; Elizabeth Lentz – Aye. Motion passed.

VI. New Business

A. Update of the Demolition Review Committee

Member Choate reported there has not been a meeting since the last Heritage meeting. There will be one tomorrow. There will be discussion on the property at 1248 Ocean Blvd. The owners want to remove the porches and move the building back. He also reported that all the proposed changes to the Demolition Review ordinances have been approved by the Planning Board. The last one will allow for when there is a public hearing, the applicant will be required to notify the abutters in writing by a letter of compliance.

B. Gazebo Fundraising/Mailer Discussion

Member Hughes suggested that due to all the unrest in the country at this time, it may not be a good time to ask people for donations.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the gazebo is a community project. It is not a political issue. It is a hometown project and the people need a little “hometown”.

The plan was to get the flyer out before the Deliberative Session. The date for the Deliberative Session has not yet been set, so there is no immediate time crunch at this point. Chair Walsh suggested an appropriate time to get the flyer out would be just before the election in March.

Member Choate reported that he has talked to Steve Bedard. Mr. Bedard said that by the time they have done the construction and the landscaping, the Commission should target raising about \$10,000. The later the fundraising starts the later the work can start.

Member White pointed out that a good fundraiser for the Commission is \$5,000. There may be a need to do the work over two years or take money out of their account.

Member Herlihy recommended getting more estimates for the work.

There was further discussion about reaching out to some town folks that would donate their time and talents to do some of the work. Preserving the history by using local resources (residents) makes a better story.

Motion by Gail Hughes to send out the fundraiser mailer in March and at the time it is sent out, present the cost of restoration. Seconded by Elizabeth Sanborn.

Roll Call Vote: Phil Walsh – Aye; Gail Hughes – Aye; Peter White – Aye;

Alex Herlihy – Aye; David Choate – Aye; Elizabeth Sanborn – Aye; Elizabeth Lentz – Aye.

Motion passed.

C. LCHIP Debrief Opportunity

Chair Walsh reported that a year ago, the Heritage Commission was offered an opportunity to review the LCHIP grant process with the people at LCHIP. They have been offered that opportunity again this year, if any of the members are interested in attending a Zoom meeting with the folks at LCHIP. It is not required; however, it is an opportunity to review last year's submission to see what they liked about it and ultimately why they were unable to make the decision to award the grant.

As there was interest on behalf of the Commission, Chair Walsh stated that he would reach out to LCHIP to arrange a date for the Zoom meeting. He will let all the members know the date and time so they will be able to join the meeting, if possible.

D. Pulpit Rock Tower Follow Up

Chair Walsh gave a brief update on the Pulpit Rock Tower. He reported that he talked to Patty Weathersby. She said that Pat Driscoll, of Star Island Builders, has agreed to donate up to 8 hours of his time in the spring to correct issues with the windows. He is going to make and install the windows at a reduced charge. Chair Walsh also reported that the few names of contractors that he had did not materialize. He asked the members if they knew of anyone that could help with the project.

There were none.

E. Parsons Field Plaque

The plaque at Parsons Field was missing. Member Herlihy investigated and found that the Department of Public Works has the plaque and will be reinstalling it in the near future.

F. Open Discussion

Member White recommended that the Heritage Commission look into getting the National Historic Plaque for the Town Hall. The State plaque is already in place.

Member Choate recommended contacting DHR in Concord to get the template for the plaque. Chair Walsh will contact DHR before the next meeting.

G. House Bill 164

Member Choate explained that this bill authorizes the Select Board to demolition municipal buildings. This bill also provides for review of any demolition by the Heritage Commission and Historic District Commission, if any. If this had been in effect, the Parsonage would still be standing. Member Choate read the bill and recommended that the Commission contact the State Representatives to strongly support this. He feels it is critical to the State of New Hampshire, as well as the Town of Rye. If this bill was to come into effect within the right time frame, it would apply to the Trolley Barn.

Chair Walsh stated that this is in the Commission's "wheelhouse" and he is in favor of the Commission taking a public stand.

Motion by David Choate for the Chair of the Heritage Commission to contact the Town's State Representatives to inform them that the Rye Heritage Commission strongly supports the passage of HB164 as amended. Seconded by Phil Walsh.

Roll Call Vote: Phil Walsh – Aye; Gail Hughes – Aye; Peter White – Aye; Alex Herlihy – Aye; David Choate – Aye; Elizabeth Sanborn – Aye; Elizabeth Lentz – Aye. Motion passed.

Chair Walsh will send a letter to Representative Grote and Representative Murray regarding the Heritage Commission's support of the Bill and urge its passage.

Adjourn

Motion by Elizabeth Sanborn to adjourn at 4:30 p.m. Seconded by Gail Hughes.

Roll Call Vote: Phil Walsh – Aye; Gail Hughes – Aye; Peter White – Aye; Alex Herlihy – Aye; David Choate – Aye; Elizabeth Sanborn – Aye; Elizabeth Lentz – Aye. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger