

**RYE HERITAGE COMMISSION
MEETING
Monday, August 30, 2021
4:30 p.m.
Rye Town Hall**

Present: Chair Phil Walsh, Vice-Chair Gail Hughes, Frank Lagana, Bev Giblin, Alex Herlihy, David Choate and Elizabeth Sanborn

1. Welcome/Call to Order

Chair Walsh called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

2. Introductions

Commission members present introduced themselves for the live-stream.

3. Review/Vote on Storm Window Proposal

Member Choate stated that his understanding is the desire is to replace the storm windows on the second-floor of the Town Hall. He asked what the plan is for the first-floor windows, in terms of storm windows. He asked why the two would not be done simultaneously. He also asked why the second-floor windows wouldn't go to the Historic District Commission (HDC).

Vice-Chair Hughes commented that the HDC has approved the project.

Member Choate stated he is more concerned about what is going to happen to the storm windows on the first level.

Vice-Chair Hughes explained that when the vote was taken back in February of 2019, it was decided that the Heritage Commission would be responsible for putting in new storm windows on the second-floor because of the need to repair the interior windows. By putting new storm windows on to protect the interior windows, they could also take the interior windows out to work on them.

Member Herlihy noted that the storm windows on the second floor are in pathetic shape compared to the windows on the first floor, which are conventional windows and storms. These are much newer. The windows on the second floor are historic windows. The storms need to be replaced, as heat is being lost through those windows.

Member Choate stated that his point is that they are spending thousands of dollars for windows on the second floor and the first floor could have something different. He asked what would happen if it was decided to use wooden storm windows for the first floor, as those are historically accurate, with metal ones being used upstairs. It doesn't make any sense to do this piecemeal.

Member Herlihy disagreed. He thinks they need to move forward.

Member Giblin agreed that they need to move forward.

Member Choate stated that his understanding was that the plan was to take out the windows on the first floor and repair them also.

Vice-Chair Hughes commented that she doesn't know anything about that. She continued that they have spoken to a gentleman whose area of expertise is restoring windows because there's a certain type of glass in those windows.

Member Choate stated that he also thinks there was some concern about whether the windows could be taken out and put back in with the storm windows on.

Chair Walsh stated that as he understands, the windows can be taken out inside without taking them out the front. He continued that he doesn't want to necessarily engage in hypothetical future window work. The windows will probably get repaired but it's almost conjecture at this point, as it may be 2022 or 2023. This has been going on for about four or five years at this point. He is looking at what is before the Commission right now. This is the way it is falling into place for the Commission.

Member Herlihy pointed out that this is the way the Town Hall is going to be restored. Once some of the staff moves over to the Town Hall Annex, it will trigger the renovation of the first floor. Once that is done, the offices on the second floor can move downstairs, which will trigger the partitions being removed to open up the second floor. The windows are simply one step of many things to be done. He reiterated that the first-floor windows are not as much of an issue, in terms of practicality and heat loss, as the second-floor windows.

Chair Walsh agreed.

Member Choate stated that by purchasing and installing these storm windows, it pretty much dictates what's going to be on the first-floor. This might be a problem with HDC if they say they don't like what's on the second floor.

Member Herlihy pointed out that the windows have already been approved.

Member Choate commented this may have been done before he was a member. He asked if there was a sample of the storm window that's going to be installed.

Vice-Chair Hughes replied they have not seen a sample because these are custom made.

Member Choate pointed out that HDC requires samples for review.

Chair Walsh stated that before the pandemic, the Commission was inching forward on this project. They were right at the finish line, and it was almost signed, sealed and delivered, when the pandemic threw everything into chaos. There was also the issue of the ongoing Town Hall Annex debates. This has been before the Commission for a long time.

Vice-Chair Hughes noted that she first started talking to people in 2018. She talked with Green Mountain about wooden storm windows, as they make them. She has gone through all the issues and costs. A lot of time has been put into making certain the windows are done right.

Chair Walsh asked if it was determined that the cost was prohibitive for the wooden storms.

Vice-Chair Hughes confirmed. She commented there was also the issue of upkeep. The storm windows through Ricci don't have any upkeep.

Referring to an email of June 2020 in regards to Stephen Decatur (Window Wooden Repair & Restoration) and L-Chip, Member Choate asked if this was the one that was too high.

Chair Walsh explained that when the time comes, Mr. Decatur would be the gentleman who would most likely be doing the repairs on the windows themselves. He continued that when the Commission applied for the L-Chip Grant in 2019 and 2020, it first encompassed both the storms and window repairs. The second application focused specifically on just the restoration of the historic windows, rather than the whole window project itself. The Commission figured the project could be piecemealed, with the grant money paying for the actual window repairs. Unfortunately, the Commission was not successful.

Motion by Phil Walsh to authorize the whole payment of \$6,757.40 to come out of the Heritage Commission's unrestricted funds to pay for the storm window project, with the understanding that 'Friends of Rye Town Hall' will also be paying the exact amount in a match, and to authorize the amount of \$4,500 for a deposit to Ricci to secure the spot for window installation and ordering.

Seconded by Alex Herlihy.

All in favor.

4. Other Business

None

Adjournment

Motion by Bev Giblin to adjourn at 4:44 p.m. Seconded by Alex Herlihy. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, Dyana Ledger