TOWN OF RYE – HERITAGE COMMISSION
THURSDAY, March 2, 2017
WORK SESSION
6:30 p.m.
Rye Town Hall

Members Present: Acting Chair Bev Giblin, Rich Davis, Peter White, Mae Bradshaw, Alternates Chris Remick and Alex Herlihy.

Not Present: James Tegeder and Priscilla Jenness.

Others Present: David Choate, NH Preservation Alliance Board Member and Rye Resident.

I.   Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Acting Chair Giblin called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. and led the Pledge or Allegiance.

II.   Introduction of Members & Seating of Alternates

Acting Chair Giblin seated Chris Remick for James Tegeder.

Acting Chair Giblin explained that the agenda was not posted in time to consider this a meeting where votes can be officially taken. It will be conducted as a work session with voting tabled to the next monthly meeting.

III.   Approval of Minutes – February 2, 2017

- **Tabled to the April monthly meeting.**

IV.   Reports:

- **Treasurer Report – PW**

Member White noted that over the past month the commission has collected $3,600 for fundraising efforts. This brings the checking account balance to $16,546. The commission has spent 7% of the budget for the year so far and is right on track.

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Member Bradshaw noted that a bill has been submitted for the mailer that went to the voters who are voting by absentee ballot. The original estimate for the mailer was $3,500.

The members reviewed the mailer.

V.   Committee Chair Status and Membership Changes

Member Bradshaw stated that a notice was received from the Selectmen's Secretary in regards to the list of members for the commission for 2017.

Terms for the following members expire for the Heritage Commission:
- Mae Bradshaw
- James Tegeder

Terms for the following members expire for the Demolition Review Committee:
- Russ Bookholz
- Alex Herlihy – Alternate

Member Bradshaw noted that she will be asking to stay on as a member. She believes that James will also be staying as a member but is looking to step down as chair.

Member Herlihy commented that James has been doing a great job as chair.

The members agreed.

Member Bradshaw stated that the commission has the opportunity to have five alternates on the commission. She encouraged the members to let people know that the commission is looking.

There was discussion on the qualifications for residents in order to become a member of the commission, especially seasonal residents.

It was the consensus of the commission that the alternate members could be gone for three to four months in the winter and still serve. Alternates and regular members need to be registered voters in the Town of Rye.

Member Bradshaw read from the RSA's:
> *A Heritage Commission may be established in accordance with RSA 673 for proper recognition, use and protection of resources; tangible or intangible, primarily man-made that are valued for their historic, cultural, aesthetic or community significance within their natural built or cultural context.*

VI. Project Updates:

- **Promotion of Articles #7 and #30 and Public Relations Campaign**

David Choate joined the conversation with the commission in regards to promoting the Heritage Commission Warrant Articles #7 and #30.

ARTICLE 07. (By Petition) Passage of this article shall override the 10 percent limitation imposed on this appropriation due to the non-recommendation of the Budget Committee. To see if the Town of Rye will vote to authorize the Rye Selectmen
- to raise and appropriate the sum of $3,200,000 gross budget for the purpose of renovating the Rye Town Hall 1839 building with due consideration of the historical features
- to construct pursuant to Option 1-Historic Renovation submitted by Hutter Corporation on December 8, 2016
- to authorize the borrowing of up to $3,200,000 through the issuance of not more than $3,200,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (N.H. RSA Chapter 33 as amended)
- to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes, to determine the rate of interest thereon, and to take such actions as may be necessary to effect the issuance, negotiation, sale and delivery of such bonds or notes as shall be in the best interest of the Town of Rye,
- to apply for and accept and expend Federal and State Grants and any private donations toward this purpose, and
- to direct the Selectmen to authorize the pursuit of available grants to help defray the cost of renovation. Rye Town Hall is listed on the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places and was designated as one of the Seven to Save Endangered Historic Properties for 2015 by the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance.
(3/5 Ballot vote required.) This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.

ARTICLE 30. (By Petition) Should Article 6 and Article 7 fail to pass, shall the town vote to raise and appropriate an amount not to exceed five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000) to repair and refurbish the exterior of the historic Rye Town Hall, to provide handicapped access and facilities, to replace and restore windows as appropriate, to provide adequate space for town hall employees without expanding the existing footprint, and improve the energy efficiency, while taking into consideration the impact of twenty-first century technology on space needs. In the event that the Board of Selectmen should determine that it is impossible within the funds appropriated hereby, to accomplish all the purposes of this warrant article, they shall nevertheless proceed, prioritizing the spending in such fashion as shall be most economical and consistent with the goals established by this warrant article.

VII. Old Business

- **None**

VIII. Next Meeting:

- **April 6, 2017**

IX. Announcements

- **Saturday, March 4th, 10:00 a.m., Library, Republican Meeting**

- **Thursday, March 9th, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Informational Night, held by Mae Bradshaw, Harbor Road.**

- **Sunday, March 12, Library, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Town Hall Educational Meeting**

    Adjournment

The work session adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger