

**RYE HERITAGE COMMISSION
MEETING
November 09, 2021
5:00 p.m.
Rye Town Hall**

Present: Chair Phil Walsh, Treasurer Peter White, Mae Bradshaw, Elizabeth Sanborn, Selectmen's Rep Bill Epperson and Alex Herlihy (via Zoom)

Welcome/Call to Order

Chair Walsh called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Alternates Elizabeth Sanborn and Mae Bradshaw were seated for the meeting.

- **Review of Previous Meeting Minutes**
 - **December 9, 2021**

The Commission voted to accept the minutes of December 9, 2021 as presented.

- **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer White gave an update to the Commission regarding end of year expenditures for 2021.

- **Demolition Review Committee Update**

Member Choate reported that the Demolition Review Committee hasn't had any meetings in the past couple of months. An application was recently received that would apply to the Heritage Commission. The application is for 280 Wallis Road, which is a 1700 cape. A demolition application came in to replace the roof, not to tear down the house. He is waiting for an answer as to whether it's putting on a new pitched roof or raising it up or making a shed roof. If it's a change in elevation or character of the roof, it changes the property.

Member White asked why it would be a Demolition Review Committee issue if they are just replacing the roof.

Member Choate explained it's more than 700sf. The ordinance reads that a partial or complete demolition falls under the committee's jurisdiction. However, if they are simply replacing the roof, it's probably not an issue. Before he tells them that they don't want to take jurisdiction, he wants to know the plan to be sure it's not something that's going to alter the 1700's character.

- **Timberline Sign Invoice Payment(s)**

Chair Walsh presented the Commission with an invoice from Timberline Sign for the house plaque project.

Motion by David Choate to pay the invoice for Timberline Sign in the amount of \$65.00. Seconded by Peter White. All in favor.

Member Choate asked if there is a list of plaques that have been issued over the years.

Member Herlihy noted this is something that needs to be done.

Chair Walsh stated that he has a list of people who have contacted the Heritage Commission. It's not a complete list.

Member Sanborn suggested contacting Timberline Sign for information.

Chair Walsh agreed to contact Timberline.

- **Rye 2023/Education Signage**

Chair Walsh pointed out that Member Herlihy sent an email relating to educational signage for the Town of Rye, specifically coinciding with the 2023 anniversary of the town. Timberline has some sample signs available for members to look at. The thought would be to apply for a grant or have a fundraiser to cover the cost of the signs so they will be ready for June 2023.

Member Herlihy spoke about ideas for the signs and places they could be posted. He noted that depending upon the materials used for the exterior signage, it could be \$150 to \$200 for each sign.

Member Sanborn asked Member Herlihy to present an email to the Commission listing the areas that he sees fit for the signage. If there are spots that tie in residential and commercial, it would behoove the owner of the commercial spot to highlight their corner. They might be willing to purchase that sign. This would be a way to get businesses in town involved.

Chair Walsh stated that any way they can engage the town at large will promote camaraderie. It's also a good way for the Heritage Commission to be stepping forward and taking on this task in a way that's just not fundraising. It opens the door to other avenues.

Member Choate commented that the signs should be permanent, long lasting and durable. All the more reason to encourage people in the neighborhood to invest in the sign. It should be esthetically, architecturally and historically pleasing.

Treasurer White stated that his idea was to have a theme; agriculture, businesses, schools and town hall, with some pictorial references and verbiage. He thinks they can certainly do a fundraiser and have people underwrite a sign.

Member Herlihy commented that he likes all the ideas that he has heard. The ideas about fundraising are excellent. The Commission won't have to do a grant. He noted that there are many examples of signs in Portsmouth. He also noted the sign at Marden Woods and the plaque at Parsons Field.

Chair Walsh commented that this project is really something the Commission can "sink their teeth into". He thanked everyone for their ideas and for pushing this forward.

- **Fundraising Appeal/2022 Outreach for RHC**

Chair Walsh noted that the toga party fundraiser is on hold for the time being. That doesn't mean the Commission can't still do a mailer. He asked Treasurer White what the 2019 mailer brought in for funds.

Treasurer White replied the cost back then was \$900. The mailer brought in between \$4,500 and \$6,000. The first year was more than \$6,000. He pointed out that the Commission has done the mailers faithfully since 2013 that's how the cash balance has been built up.

Chair Walsh commented that March or April would be a good time to send out a blast of some kind.

Member Sanborn suggested listing some of the past projects the funds have been used for on the mailer. This way people will know what their money went to. She commented there's been perception that there's been a lot of money but people don't know what's really changed. There may be more success if the Commission let's the residents know it's working by spreading a bit of the word of accomplishment.

Chair Walsh agreed. He suggested that the Commission work on ideas for a mailer at the next meeting.

- **Fundraising Subcommittee Update**

- **Rye Advocates Update**

Old Business:

- **Pulpit Rock Tower (see reference doc.)**

Chair Walsh noted that Patricia Weathersby, Friends of Pulpit Rock Tower, would like to come back to meet with the Heritage Commission to have another discussion about the tower. Chair Walsh commented that he doesn't know how realistic it is for this commission to take on this project when they have so many other balls in the air; such as, the gazebo and the Town Hall. The Commission agreed to meet with Mrs. Weathersby.

- **Gazebo**

Chair Walsh reported that the gazebo was covered by DPW and is at least protected for now.

Member Sanborn suggested that this might be a community project the Portsmouth High School woodshop classes (Tech Ed) would be willing to take on. They could mention to the school that the 1623 Celebration is coming up and ask if they would be willing to participate. The Heritage Commission could supply the materials and ask if they have the manpower to construct it.

Chair Walsh agreed this is an avenue worth pursuing.

Treasurer White suggested the Seacoast School of Technology, which is a vo-tech school.

Member Sanborn commented that she suggested Portsmouth High School because anyone living in Rye would be going to Portsmouth High. It would be their hometown school. She agreed to take on the task of reaching out to the school.

- **Town Hall Monument Window Restoration**

Chair Walsh stated that if the Heritage Commission is going to commit to this project, the Town Administrator needs a full contract with the final detailed costs. The contract will be given to the Select Board for their approval.

Member Bradshaw agreed to follow up with the Town Administrator.

➤ **Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 3rd, 5:30 p.m., Town Hall**

Adjournment

**Motion by Elizabeth Sanborn to adjourn at 6:23 p.m. Seconded by David Choate.
All in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger