

**RYE HERITAGE COMMISSION**  
**Thursday, February 2, 2023, 5:30 p.m.**  
**Rye Town Hall**

**Commission Present:** *Chair Bev Giblin, Vice-Chair Gail Hughes, Peter White, Alex Herlihy, David Choate (arrived 5:40 p.m.), Selectmen's Rep Bill Epperson, and Alternates Karin Nelson and Elizabeth Sanborn.*

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Giblin called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and the members introduced themselves.

**II. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes**

- January 5, 2023

Motion by Peter White to approve the minutes of January 5, 2023 as presented. Seconded by Elizabeth Sanborn. All in favor.

**III. Business**

- **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer White reported that there were no discernable expenditures for January. The Commission was under budget for 2022 and are moving forward with the budget for 2023. The Commission's cash balance is strong at this time.

- **Demolition Review Committee**

Member Choate was not yet present at the meeting to give a report. As a member of the Demolition Review Committee, Alternate Sanborn noted that the Committee does not have any applications before them at this time.

Selectman Epperson asked about a house located on South Road that is being proposed for demolition.

Alternate Sanborn confirmed that the Demolition Review Committee went through the house and it was not worth saving. She noted that the house has quite a bit of history and there may be a couple of items the owners may be interested in saving.

- **Gazebo**

Chair Giblin submitted a proposal to the Commission for identifying possible lead paint on the gazebo, which is a total of \$750. The proposal is just to say whether there is lead or not. This does not cover the cost of remediation, which cannot be started until lead paint is identified.

**Note:** *David Choate joined the meeting at 5:40 p.m.*

Selectman Epperson pointed out that Triple Construction is done with the Town Hall Annex and they have moved on. So, the Commission has lost the opportunity for them to do the work.

Chair Giblin commented that the project is starting at “square one” again.

Treasurer White reminded the Commission that \$4,160 was raised specifically for the gazebo through a dedicated mailer. The Commission also allocated \$2,000 funds for this project for a total of just over \$6,000 earmarked for the gazebo. If the project does not move forward, the \$4,000 should go back to the donors.

Chair Giblin commented that as much as she would like to scrap the project, once the gazebo is finished, it will be lovely no matter how old it is and even if it has just a “sniff” of historic importance. She thinks the Commission should move forward and find another company to do the work.

There was some discussion in regards to people who may be able to do the work. Member Choate agreed to get in touch with Steve Bedard to see if he has a recommendation. Chair Giblin will also reach out to Abenaki to see if they know of anyone who have worked for them that may need some extra work.

Member Choate reported that the Commission was awarded \$500 for the landscaping from the Driftwood Garden Club.

The Commission agreed to move forward with the project, as it’s important to honor the donations that have been received. It was agreed that the gazebo will be a beautiful addition to the Town.

- **Graveyard Adoptions**

There are no pending graveyard adoptions before the Commission at this time. It was noted that the graveyards in Rye are identified by the closest house address. This list is on the Historical Society’s website.

- **Demolition Review Committee Revisited**

Member Choate reported that the Committee will be meeting with the owners of 1264/1266 Ocean Boulevard, in an effort to be proactive before the owner files for a building permit.

- **Rye Signage**

Treasurer White reported that seven signs have been designed. There was fundraising, so the money has been raised for the signs. A few edits have been made to the design and the signs will be manufactured in March. The intent is to put up the signs in the spring. He presented the graphic designs showing the signs. Signs include:

- The Brown Family Farm located off West Road
- Rye Town Center located to the side of the Library facing the Green off Washington Road
- Trefethen's Corner at 365 Sagamore Road and the corner of Clark Road
- Pulpit Rock Tower at the beginning of Neptune Drive
- Goss Farm, marsh, and Isles of Shoals on the Goss Farm property
- Brackett Road burial site near Brackett Road
- Rye's Historic Hotels across from the Drake House

Signs are going to be mounted on a singular metal stand and will be all-weather protected.

- **Newsletter**

The article for the Town Newsletter is due on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Any additions should be sent to Chair Giblin by February 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### **IV. New Business**

Selectman Epperson reported that the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Town Hall Annex was held on February 1<sup>st</sup>. The Tax Collector's Office, Assessing, and Finance are now located at the annex.

Alternate Nelson noted that she spoke with Frank Drake about the Rye Beach Heritage Commission. The Rye Beach Precinct Commissioners would be happy to meet with the Heritage Commission at their site anytime in the afternoon.

The Commission tentatively scheduled a meeting for Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, or Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m.

- Next Heritage Commission Meeting to be held on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5:30 p.m., Town Hall

#### **Adjournment**

**Motion by David Choate to adjourn at 6:15 p.m. Seconded by Peter White. All in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted, Dyana F. Ledger