

## **RYE HERITAGE COMMISSION**

**Thursday, April 6, 2023, 5:30 p.m.**

**Rye Town Hall**

**Commission Present:** *Chair Bev Giblin, Vice-Chair Gail Hughes, Treasurer Peter White, Alex Herlihy, Frank Lagana, Selectmen's Rep Bill Epperson, and Alternate Karin Nelson*

### **I. Call to Order**

Chair Giblin called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. and members introduced themselves.

### **II. Vote to recommend reappointments for another 3-year term**

The following members are up for reappointment in 2023: Gail Hughes, Frank Lagana, David Choate and alternate Elizabeth Sanborn. Members are asked to send a letter requesting reappointment to the Select Board's office. Chair Giblin will send a recommendation letter to the Select Board.

**Motion by Alex Herlihy to recommend to the Select Board the reappointment of Gail Hughes, Frank Lagana, David Choate and Elizabeth Sanborn to the Heritage Commission for three-year terms. Seconded by Peter White. Vote: 4-0** (Bev Giblin, Alex Herlihy, Peter White, Bill Epperson)

### **III. Business**

#### **• Treasurer's Report – Peter White**

**Treasurer White** reported there was no activity in March. The restricted town sign allocation of \$20,000 has a balance of about \$9,000 in outstanding bills. After the seven signs are installed, there will be about \$10,000 to \$11,000 remaining for the development of future signs. Treasurer White asked for a motion to pay an invoice to the graphic designer in the amount of \$5,032. He commended Brenda Riddell from Graphic Details for her beautiful work.

**Motion by Alex Herlihy to pay Graphic Details in the amount of \$5,032 from the restricted sign budget. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.**

#### **○ Vote to pay Timberline invoice #11327 or house plaque**

**Motion by Peter White to pay Timberline in the amount of \$65.00 for invoice #11327. Seconded by Alex Herlihy. All in favor.**

Treasurer White noted that \$500 was received from the Driftwood Garden Club, which is earmarked for the gazebo. The gazebo account has \$4,160 plus an additional \$2,000 from unrestricted funds, which was allocated by the Commission. Adding the recent \$500 donation will bring the funds earmarked for the gazebo to \$6660.

- **Demolition Review Committee**
  - **Reappointment of expired members**  
*Not addressed at this meeting, as David Choate was not present*
- **Gazebo**

Member Herlihy noted that two people have responded in regards to the gazebo reconstruction. The first person to respond was from Renovations Plus in North Hampton. The gentleman suggested putting the granite foundation in a place that's level. This person would also use existing materials as much as possible, instead of completely building a reproduction. Materials to be used would be pressure treated and synthetic because of the weather. The contractor also recognized that the Heritage Commission would be responsible for moving and lifting the gazebo pieces. Member Herlihy noted that this contractor is not responding to emails, so he is no longer being considered.

Member Herlihy continued that the second person to respond was Unified Builders from Barrington. After seeing the project, their office sent a scope of work that reflects the details for the proposal. Member Herlihy reviewed the scope of work.

**Motion by Alex Herlihy to approve the scope of work from Unified Builders in order to receive an estimate. Seconded by Peter White. All in favor.**

Selectman Epperson reported that he spoke with DPW Director Jason Rucker. He agreed to level the proposed area, which is the corner of the parking lot near the Congregational Church. The area has to be gravel, as anything else would require ADA compliance. Selectman Epperson suggested that he and Member Herlihy meet with Director Rucker one more time to be sure it's an acceptable location.

- **Graveyard adoptions**
  - Additional programs & suggestions from Alex and Peter

Member Herlihy spoke to the Commission about the possibility of forming an ad hoc group to create interest in the graveyard adoptions; such as, the same type of groups for old houses and historic signage. Member Giblin and Member Herlihy expressed interest in being on the subcommittee. They will meet to start the formation of the subcommittee.

Member Herlihy spoke about the idea of reviewing all the projects the Heritage Commission has worked on over the years, as well as projects in the present and future. The intent is to cleanup and organize the projects.

- **Rye Advocates**  
*No updates for this meeting*
- **Rye Beach Village District**

Karin Nelson noted that Rye Beach District Commissioners were very open in hearing what the Heritage Commission does. The commission said that they would broach the subject at the Rye Beach Village District Annual Meeting in June. If the voters approve moving forward, the idea of that part of Rye becoming part of the Heritage Commission, would be on the Rye Beach Village District warrant in 2024. If this passes, it would mean that the Demolition Review Committee would have purview over the whole town. Member Herlihy and Chair Giblin agreed to go to the annual meeting in June to speak on the subject.

- **Rye Signage**

Treasurer White reported that the signs have been totally designed, proofread, and sent to the manufacturer. The factory is now making the signs. It's anticipated that the signs will be done early May. Installation dates for the signs will be scheduled once they have been received. An event is going to be held for the installation of the one in Rye Center. The event will be publicized as soon as the date is set.

#### **IV. Other Business**

Selectman Epperson reported that the Town Center Committee is forming a visionary plan for the area from the monument to the split between Wallis and Washington. It's not clear how many commissions and boards are involved. A letter is going out to all commissions and boards asking them to come before the Town Center Committee, if they have interest, to discuss ideas and things they would like to see done. The Heritage Commission will be receiving a letter within the next six weeks.

- **Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m.**

#### **Adjournment**

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