

RYE HERITAGE COMMISSION
Thursday, February 1, 2024, 5:30 PM
Rye Town Hall

Commission Present: Chair Alex Herlihy, Vice-Chair Gail Hughes, Treasurer Peter White, David Choate, and Alternate Elizabeth Sanborn

Members Not Present: Bev Giblin, Frank Lagana, Alternate Mae Bradshaw, and Selectmen's Rep Bill Epperson.

I. Call to Order

Chair Herlihy called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

II. Assign Alternates

Chair Herlihy seated Alternate Elizabeth Sanborn for Bev Giblin.

III. Treasurer's Report – Peter White

Treasurer White reported that he does not have the updated numbers for January yet; however, everything is pretty much status quo. The Commission still has approximately \$42,300 in the checking account. There was nothing unusual in January to report. He noted that they are producing four more signs which will be approximately \$8,000 from the restricted town sign funds.

Motion by Peter White to pay Timberline Signs for five house plaques in the amount of \$325.00 to come from the unrestricted funds. Seconded by Elizabeth Sanborn. All in Favor.

Motion by Alex Herlihy to accept the Treasurer's report. Seconded by Gail Hughes. All in favor.

IV. Approval of Minutes – January 4, 2024

The following was recommended:

On page five during the discussion of IX. **Permanent marker monument – land acknowledgment for native peoples it states:** Chair Herlihy explained that he went before the Select Board recently regarding this endeavor. At monument park, there are two monuments; one from Rye400 and the other privately funded honoring the founding families.

It was recommended that the minutes reflect that there is currently no monument park.

Motion by Alex Herlihy to accept the Minutes of January 4, 2024 as amended. Seconded by Peter White. All in favor.

V. Gazebo reproduction Update

Chair Herlihy reported that there was an issue with the insurance. This created a delay in the process and Jeff Hines was not able to start the project as planned. Chair Herlihy promised to follow up on this issue and report back to the Commission.

VI. Locke Road Property

Chair Herlihy reported that there have now been two newsletters reporting the updated information on the property at 237 Locke Road. He suggested that the Commission could now go to the Demolition Review Committee.

Member Choate reported that there was a follow-up article that made the paper today. He added that there have been people that have expressed interest, but he doesn't think that anyone is serious about it at this point.

Chair Herlihy noted that Selectman Bob McGrath would like to take some pictures of the house for publicity.

Member Choate said he would contact the owner and set up a time for Selectman McGrath to get into the property.

VII. Select Board appointed Town Hall Sub-Committee on space needs and renovation.

Member Choate reported that he and Chair Herlihy went to the Select Board and made a presentation as to why the Commission thought this sub-committee was important. The Select Board asked that the Heritage Commission come back with a mission statement and a proposal.

Member Choate read the following:

Special or Blue-Ribbon Committee for the Restoration of the Rye Town Hall

The purpose of the Committee shall be to collect and analyze all previous Town Hall plans and studies and to propose a restoration/renovation plan for the Rye Town Hall that not only meets the space needs of Town Hall based staff, as well as the general public, but which also proposes a methodology and timetable for funding and executing the project.

Committee:

- Three members from the Rye Heritage Commission
- Three members from the Friends of Rye Town Hall
- Two members from the Historic District Commission
- Three members from the general public

Member Choate stated that he will be presenting this to the Town Administrator next Thursday.

VIII. Report on Rye Advocates

Chair Herlihy reported that the Rye Advocates will be meeting next Tuesday. One of the items on the agenda will be the farmhouse at 237 Locke Road.

IX. Establish graveyard sub-committee

Chair Herlihy stated that he has done some publicity to recruit friends of the historical graveyards for a sub-committee. He added that he has two people who want to serve on the Committee. One is Tom Sanderson and the other is Lydia Tilsley. With one additional person the Committee could be established. The first important task of the Committee would be to reconcile the list of the historic graveyards. Chair Herlihy explained that the original list done by Louise Tallman had 60+ graveyards. The updated list only has 40. The sub-committee will be tasked with finding the missing parcels.

X. Neighborhood Historic Districts

Member Choate stated that he does not have anything new to report. He has not been able to get in touch with Pat Losik of the Planning Board. He will reach out to her again.

XI. Other Business

None

Adjournment

Motion by David Choate to adjourn at 6:13 PM. Seconded by Peter White. All in Favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F Ledger