

RYE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Thursday, February 19, 2019

5:00 p.m. – Rye Town Hall

***Present: Mae Bradshaw, David Choate, Charles Hoyt, Karen Stewart, James Tegeder,
Alternate Katharine Brown***

Katharine Brown was seated for Daryl Kent.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

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

II. Public Hearing: Star Island new construction

Star Island manager, Jack Farrell presented the Commission with the proposed plan. The project will be started in March, to be done by June 15th.

Mr. Farrell announced there will be a Grand Opening on July 4th.

Motion by Charles Hoyt to approve the plan, with the addition of vertical palings and railings as discussed. Seconded by James Tegeder. All in Favor.

Chair Bradshaw led a discussion regarding the process of conducting a public hearing on projects that need to be vetted by the Historic Commission. She informed the Commission that the building department has very tight resources, as in staffing and time, and it is becoming increasingly impossible for them to administer this. It is becoming more of a responsibility for the Commission to handle. She recommended having a simplified process outlining the steps on the application so that the applicant would know exactly what is needed and the time lines required.

The steps are:

- Defining the process
- Communicating the process
- Gathering the materials needed
- Noticing the public hearing
- Notifying all parties
- Notification of the decision

Chair Bradshaw asked the members what they thought would facilitate the process for the applicant. She asked the members to send her their ideas on this issue before the next meeting so that she could put together a proposal for a procedure.

During a short discussion, the sentiment was that there are important legal guidelines that must be followed for public hearings. The Commission felt that the administrative duties are the responsibility of the Town and that it should not be left up to a group of volunteers.

Chair Bradshaw stated that she would follow up with Janice Ireland to see how much help she could provide.

Member Choate informed the Commission that the Demolition Committee is looking at the current ordinance. As it is currently written that a house has to be more than 50 years old to be of significance to require a hearing. The Demolition Committee is discussing the possibility of including some buildings that are newer than fifty years old that are significant because of their style. This would be for the whole Town, not just in the District.

There was discussion on the procedure for expanding the Historic District and the advantages of being in a Historic District.

III. Other Business: Freedom Grant Design Guideline project

Chair Bradshaw talked about the Freedom Grant. She informed the members that the application is due the 21st of February. The Grant is Freedom Way National Heritage Area – Partnership Grant Program 2019. The grants are between one to five thousand dollars. She suggested that something as simple as an inventory of homes on a certain street would be a fabulous thing to have. It should include photographs of the homes, information on when it was built, the names of the current owners and some of the home's history. She suggested that if it was done on Central Road, and found that 99% of it was historically important, the document could be used as a tool to approach home owners in order to expand the District.

She reviewed the grant categories for the members. Some were:

- Communication and Collaboration
 - Interpretative signage
 - Brochures
 - Maps
 - Exhibits
 - Development of on-line navigation platforms
 - Apps
- Interpretation and Education
 - Historical research projects
 - After school programs
 - Site Search visits and festivals

Chair Bradshaw also talked about the idea of having the district inventory as a GIS overlay on the Town's website. She pointed out that the Heritage Commission has been talking about this for some time now, or at least have the 63 private graveyards listed.

Chair Bradshaw stated that even though it is too late to apply for this year's Freedom Grant, there are other grants coming up, such as the LCHIP and Moose Head Grants. The projects that she has mentioned would be of great value to the Commission and the Town and would fit nicely into a grant application.

IV. Adjournment

Motion by Charles Hoyt to adjourn at 6:02 p.m. Seconded by James Tegeder. All in favor.

Next Meeting: April 18, 2019 - 4:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Dyana F. Ledger