

**TOWN OF RYE – Historic District Commission
MEETING
Wednesday, March 18, 2022
5:30 PM
Rye Town Hall**

Present: Chair Kaitlyn Coffey, James Tegeder, David Choate, by Zoom: Stacey Smith, Alternate Lydia Tilsley and Mary Mitchell

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Coffey called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

Chair Coffey introduced Andy Stecher Chair of the Rye 400th Anniversary Committee.

Mr. Stecher introduced himself to the Commission. He noted that he is originally from Germany and came to the U.S. about 36 years ago. He and his wife have two children and they moved to Rye two years ago. His wife's family have been associated with Rye for 100 years, as they spent many summers in town. Mr. Stecher is a huge history buff and joined the Rye Historical Society about eight months ago.

The Rye Historical Society adopted the status of being the umbrella organization for the Rye 400th Anniversary Celebration. The Town has budgeted funds to support the festivities. Rye Historical Society has also raised private funds. A subcommittee has been formed to help create an environment where 400 related events can occur throughout 2023. Events are also open to any community group who is interested and able to organize it on their own. The 400 Committee will help those groups with publicity for their event. Events for the celebration will include photo and art contests, author readings that address parts of Rye History, silent auctions, recreational and educational events focusing on different time periods.

A candlelight stroll to kick off the 400th Celebration is being planned for December 4, 2022, directly following the Holiday Parade. The stroll will begin at the Rye Public Library and will meander through the Historic District highlighting the historic homes. The stroll will end at Parson's Field with the lighting of the Christmas Tree.

A website is being developed for information on the 400th Anniversary Celebration. The intent is to have the website running by the end of May or June: **Ryeh400.org**.

Mr. Stecher and the HDC members had a short brainstorming session on ideas for events:

- Honoring the person that has lived in Rye the longest
- Honoring the family that has lived in Rye the longest
- Creating a Monument
 - A large boulder with a plaque

- Commemorating the 400 Anniversary
- Having a paver program to fund the monument
 - Donations coming from Rye Families
 - Combining the Gazebo with the monument & paver idea
- Doing a couple of events at Webster at Rye for the seniors who cannot get out

II. Approval of Minutes 4/13/2022

The following was noted:

- Page 3 reads: Chair Coffey reported that Mae Bradshaw had received an email from ~~Randy~~ at the ~~Preservation Alliance~~.
- It should read: Chair Coffey reported that Mae Bradshaw had received an email from Brandy at the NH Division of Historical Resources.

Motion by David Choate to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Lydia Tilsley. All in Favor.

III. CLG grant update

Chair Coffey reminded the members that they have a grant application that they had put in their budget this year for the funding for planning the interior space of the Town Hall. The Historic District Commission would not be involved in any way with the design. They would strictly be involved in the funding.

There was a meeting with the Select Board last Wednesday. Since the construction at the annex has been delayed, there was a question as to whether or not to proceed with the grant process this year. The Select Board decided to move forward with it. The idea is that hopefully by the fall, they would be at the point where they could engage an architect. The application was for a \$20,000 project, with \$8,000 coming from the town and \$12,000 coming from the grant. Mae Bradshaw submitted the application on Monday.

IV. Signage Committee Update

Member Tilsley reported that the signage committee met on Friday. They have identified sites of interest, which include:

- The Brackett Road site
- Brown Lane Farm on West Road
- Rye Harbor and Goss Farm area
- Pulpit Rock Tower
- Odiorne Point
- Town Center
- The Drake House
- Trefethen Corner (the northern section of Sagamore & Clark)

Peter White has created a mockup of what the signs would look like. They are similar to the historic site signs in downtown Portsmouth.

Each member of the Signage Committee has been assigned to do a writeup of one or two of the sites. They are currently meeting twice a month. Member Tilsley will keep the HDC up to date on the Signage Committee's progress.

V. Application work Session

Chair Coffey reported that she and Member Choate met at the library and reviewed Exeter's change to existing structures application. She handed out some rough edits from their research.

Some of the things that they put on the draft application that they felt were coming up a lot are:

- Allowing people to know that the guidelines are available on the website.
- Outlining what is needed from the applicant

The idea is to continue to prep/edit the application so that by December the Town's Attorney will review it along with the ordinance. The intent is to have it ready to go on the ballot for the town vote in March.

- Currently the Rye application is titled 'Certificate of Approval for Change to an Existing Structure'
 - Recommended change; 'Application for Certificate of Approval for Change to Existing Structure'
- The difference between the application for change to existing structures and the application for new construction is the new construction application requires;
 - Copies of the floor plans
 - Copies of elevations
 - Copies of the site plans
- The question of notice of a site visit came up
 - It was agreed that it should be stated in the ordinance or in the guidelines of procedures
- The rewrite of the ordinance will be a separate task.

The members continued reviewing and editing the application. All agreed that through this process, it is important to reestablish a relationship between the building inspectors and the HDC. After the revisions of this work session are completed, a new revision of the application will be circulated.

➤ **Next Meeting June 8, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.**

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Lydia Tilsley adjourn at 6:47 p.m. Seconded by James Tegeder. All in Favor.

Respectfully Submitted
Dyana F. Ledger