

**RYE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

5:30 p.m. – Rye Town Hall

***Present:* Chair Kaitlyn Coffey, Lydia Tilsley, Stacey Smith, David Choate, Karen Stewart, and Selectmen's Rep Tom King**

I. Call to Order

Chair Coffey called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

- **6/8/22**
 - It should be noted that Selectman Tom King was also present at the meeting.

Motion by Kaitlyn Coffey to approve the minutes of June 8, 2022 as amended. Seconded by Stacey Smith. All in favor.

- **9/14/22**
 - Page 2, 1st paragraph, 2nd sentence should read: **The people attending seemed to be very enthusiastic.**
 - Page 2, 1st paragraph, 3rd sentence should read: **She noted that three families attended the first workshop and two at the second.**
 - Page 3, It should be noted that the date of the Candlelight Stroll is Sunday, December 4th.

Motion by Karen Stewart to approve the minutes of September 14, 2022 as amended. Seconded by Stacey Smith. All in favor.

III. Business

- **Lydia** – appointment as Vice Chair

Motion by Stacey Smith to appoint Lydia Tilsley as vice-chair of the Historic District Commission. Seconded by Karen Stewart. All in favor.

- **Expansion of the District**

Member Choate noted that he was tasked with coming up with talking points about the benefits of expanding the Historic District. He submitted information to the Commission from NH

Preservation Alliance addressing the setup of a district, and best practices. He reviewed information covering frequently asked questions about the advantages and disadvantages of owning a property in the Historic District, and other questions that may be asked by someone not already in the district.

Member Choate pointed out that they would probably be looking at 2024 for getting an expansion of the District approved by town vote. It would have to go to the Rules and Regulations Committee about the middle of next year. Member Choate explained that being a certified local government allows them to apply for grants. They can apply for a grant to have someone do a historic inventory of the buildings. This would give them ammunition and will provide great information for the work being done through the museum.

Chair Coffey noted that they missed the deadline for the 2023 grants. The intent had to be filed in May of 2022. In May 2024, they could file their intent for a grant.

Member Choate pointed out that would mean this wouldn't be able to be done for 2024.

Chair Coffey explained that if they file the intent by May, by December they should know the funding necessary for the grant, which could be included in the next budget. She believes the grant applications come out in February.

Member Tilsley spoke about possibly taking on the inventory as a project.

Chair Coffey commented that if they did their own inventory and didn't need grant funding for that piece, the resources of a grant might be able to be used to move the expansion part forward.

Member Smith pointed out that if an independent third party does the inventory, it might carry more weight in the community.

There was some discussion about what would be involved in doing the project themselves. It was agreed that even if they don't need the grant for the inventory on the few properties being considered for expansion, they should still submit their intent next year for other things.

Member Choate reported that the Town of Stratham has recently adopted a Route 33 Legacy Highway Heritage District. This was designed to try to preserve and save the houses that are left on Route 33. He thinks this is an interesting approach. If they don't want to have a historic district, but have areas covered by an overlay. He submitted information to the Commission for their review.

It was agreed to start small and continue discussions on other areas.

- **Grant opportunities for 2023**

Chair Coffey will update the Commission in the near future on grants that might be available for them to consider for upcoming projects.

- **Stroll Updates**

Chair Coffey noted that Tate and Foss will be sponsoring the stroll. The Rye 400th Committee is working out the logistics for the stroll. The Heritage Commission will just be responsible for finding volunteers to help with putting out the luminaries. She pointed out that Tate and Foss will be handing out the candles at the welcome table. The Church is handling the caroling. The Marshall of the parade is the pastor of the Church, who is retiring soon. The public will be able to pick up their candles at the Library Common. The carolers will kick off the stroll and lead the public through town center to Parsons Field.

The candlelight stroll is being held after the Rye Holiday Parade on Sunday, December 4th. The stroll will end at Parsons Field with the lighting of the holiday tree.

- **Rye 400 – Signage Project update**

Member Tilsley explained that the Heritage Commission is doing a fundraising mailer for the signs. The intent is to have that go out mid-October. People can sponsor a full sign or make a donation. A graphic designer is working on drafting the look of the signs. The sign subcommittee is still working on finalizing the locations.

IV. Other Business

- Chair Coffey reported that the solar panel project for the Rye Junior High School is well underway. A construction date has already been scheduled. This was something that the Commission was not pleased about as it is on the front of the building; however, it's not a project they technically have jurisdiction over. She pointed out that the solar panels are flat and will be the same color as the roof shingles.
- Chair Coffey suggested the Commission keep their focus at this time on the possible expansion of the Historic District.
Member Choate pointed out that the focus for the grant in 2024 might be inventory for the homes on Washington Road up to Fern Avenue.
- Member Choate noted that the Demolition Review Committee voted to have a site walk and public hearing for 1595 Ocean Blvd., which is being proposed for a tear down and rebuild by the owners.
- Member Choate also noted that the Rye Beach Village Precinct is interested in having a heritage commission and demolition review committee. Heritage Commission Member Karin Nelson is in charge of trying to put that together.

➤ **Next meeting scheduled for November 9th, 5:30 p.m., Rye Town Hall**

Adjournment

Motion by Lydia Tilsley to adjourn at 6:21 p.m. Seconded by Kaitlyn Coffey. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F Ledger