

**RYE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, November 9, 2022
5:30 p.m. – Rye Town Hall**

Members Present: Acting Chair Lydia Tilsley, James Tegeder, David Choate, Karen Stewart, Selectmen's Rep Tom King, and Alternate Katharine Brown

Also Present: Peter White

I. Call to Order

Acting Chair Tilsley called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Alternate Katharine Brown was seated for Kaitlyn Coffey.

II. Approval of Minutes – 10/12/22

Motion by David Choate to approve the minutes of October 12th as presented. Seconded by Tom King. All in favor.

III. Rye 400 – Signage Project Update

Peter White, representing the Heritage Commission, explained that the Commission has a subcommittee called the Sign Committee. The subcommittee is working in conjunction with the Rye 400th group on a project for 2023. The idea is to have seven all-weather signs around town highlighting various historical and civic things. (Mr. White presented an example to the Commission of a sign for the Brown Family Farm on West Road.) He further explained the signs are going to be 30" x 24" on a single pedestal. One of the signs being done is for the Historic District, which will be highlighting the historical and cultural past of Rye center. The intent is to place the sign on the Library Green. The design of the sign is going to be a map of Washington Road with seven pictures of buildings that were on Washington Road in the past. This project will be going to the Select Board and the Department of Public Works to get their concurrence of where the sign will be placed in the Library Green. The goal is to get the sign completed in the March to May timeframe. He pointed out that the Heritage Commission is having a fundraiser to do the signs. The cost of a sign is between \$2,500 to \$3,000. The top of the sign will be made of weather-tight plastic and the posts will be metal. Signs are similar to ones that were done in Portsmouth and Dover. Other signs being proposed in Rye includes; agriculture, fishing, World War II with Pulpit Rock, and historic hotels on Ocean Boulevard.

Acting Chair Tilsley noted that the Commission will be asked to approve the sign when the time comes.

Mr. White agreed to come back to the Commission once the exact location is identified. He will also bring the mockup of the sign with him.

IV. Expansion of the District Updates

Brandee Loughlin, NH Division of Historic Resources Preservation Planning & Development Coordinator, stated that she oversees the Certified Local Government (CLG) Program and DHR's Preservation Planning Program. CLG communities are eligible to apply for grants through the Division of Historic Resources. The CLG Grants in N.H. are one of the only sources of grant funding for local communities to do surveys, inventory, and national registry nominations. There is an L-Chip Grant that funds a lot of brick-and-mortar projects, but those do not fund surveys and inventory.

Ms. Loughlin continued that her office oversees the CLG Program. Federal funding requires them to pass through 10% of funding every year in the form of CLG Grants, which averages about \$60,000 to \$70,000 per year. There are twenty-eight CLG communities in N.H. DHR does everything they can to fund as many projects as possible and work with communities to spread the funding. The process involves a letter of intent which is usually due around January or February, depending on when the federal funding is received. A notification letter will be sent to the Commission letting them know that they are accepting letters of intent for the grant round. From there, an appointment will be made to speak with the Commission or the grant contact person to flush out the project. After that meeting, applications are submitted to DHR for the grant awards.

The types of grants that can be applied for fall into three priorities. Priority 1 projects include survey and national register listing. These are 100% funding with no match required. The next priority 1 level is preservation planning, which can be new or an update to the master plan. The other level is education and information, which includes workshops, research of historic buildings, mapping, signage, and education for commission members. The education and information projects require a 60/40 grant match, which can be soft costs instead of cash. Priority 2 projects are predevelopment, which are also a 60/40 match. These projects include architectural and engineering studies for proposed physical projects. She pointed out that the funding requests exceed the amount of money that is available to grant. DHR has not awarded priority 2 or 3 projects in almost a decade. The other level of grants are the mini grants. These cover NAPC membership for the community and/or attendance at NAPC forum.

There was some discussion about what the Commission can do ahead of time to help prepare for the inventory project. The Commission is intending to submit a project for survey work to look at an additional thirteen properties for the possibility of expanding the Historic District. The Commission agreed to draft up a statement to submit as a letter of intent and to work on the application over the next few meetings. They will also work on researching information about the properties to help support the application. Member Choate will contact some consultants to speak with them about the upcoming project and to get information on how the Commission should proceed.

V. Other Business

The candlelight stroll will be held on December 4th and will start right after the holiday parade. Anyone who wants to help put out the luminaries should meet at the library before the stroll at 4:00 p.m.

The Historic District Commission has three open seats for anyone who may be interested in joining.

- **Next Meeting: December 14th, 5:30 p.m., Town Hall**

Adjournment

Motion by Karen Stewart to adjourn at 6:42 p.m. Seconded by Katharine Brown. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger