**HERITAGE COMMISSION**

**TOWN OF KINGSTON, NH
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

**Kingston Community Library**

**January 25th, 2024, 6:30pm**

**Members Present:**

Ernest Landry, Chairman

Robert Bean, Vice-Chairman

Glenn Coppelman, Selectman’s Representative

Susan Prescott, Historic District Commission’s Representative

Charlotte Boutin, Member

**Members absent:**

Eileen Clifford, Member

**Also Present:**

Sarah Bufano, Recording Secretary

Walt Roy

**Call to order:** Ernie Landry called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

**Historic District Commission Update:**

**Acceptance of Minutes:**

Motion by Mr. Coppelman to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Bean. Robert Bean made a motion to amend the previous meeting minutes. On page two, the word “son” should be changed to “daughter” when referencing Josiah Bartlett’s family residing in the Furlong House. Seconded by Glenn Coppelman. All in favor.

**Updates:** **Grace Daley Barn Rehabilitation Project**

 **Status/Action-Plan:**

Progress on the Grace Daley Barn has slowed. The materials are sufficiently covered. The commission prefers the project to be completed by June, as that is when the storage container (that currently holds everything displaced from the barn) must be returned. According to the Moose Grant, the project must be completed by September 2024.

\*\*A group photo was taken to supplement the town’s annual report

**Updates:** **Plains Cemetery - Celebration and Rehabilitation Work**

**Status/Action-Plan:**

The commission is waiting for the spring to clean more headstones. This is in preparation for the celebration of the cemetery’s 300 year anniversary in 2025.

Ernie Landry brought up that when the stones are being cleaned, data needs to be collected on them. This data would be brought to the museum and put into the Past Perfect documentation system.

**Updates:** **Letters to Owners of Historic Homes**

**Status/Action-Plan:**

Letters were printed during the last week in December. During these past few weeks, approximately 270 envelopes have been stuffed and ready to mail. They will be sent out shortly. The commission is considering hosting a seminar from Andrew Cushing (with the NH Preservation Alliance) for owners of historic homes to learn more about their home and what it means to own a historic home if there is sufficient interest.

**Updates:** **Valley Lane Town Forest Archaeology**

 **Status/Action-Plan:**

Ernie Landry, Evy Nathan, Gloria LeClair, Walt Roy, and Chuck Geary visited the foundation on Valley Lane and took measurements and photos. Walt Roy and his wife are starting to research the history of the property.

**Updates:** **Documentation**

**Status/Action-Plan:**

The commission is hoping to visit the Christie House to take photos and document it. They are also looking to write documentation on the Furlong House.

**Public Comment:**

N/A

**New Business: New Projects**

 **Status/Action-Plan:**

The commission is hoping to improve the system in which residents are able to apply for agricultural easements. This would be a continuation on a project they had worked on for a short time previously. They are hoping to outline the process more clearly and assist the selectmen. They noticed that there are a wide range of percentages and the justification is not clear. They are hoping to look at the criteria and design an outline for a more balanced system to ensure that all houses and applicants are treated fairly.

To do this, they are going to create a recommendation and propose it to the selectboard. They are hoping that it will create a more standardized process for approving or disapproving an easement. As a part of this, they are going to recommend more follow ups with homeowners after they receive an easement to make sure their historic structure is being kept up. As a note, easements need to be renewed every 10 years.

Ernie Landry mentioned that the NH Preservation Alliance is a great resource for town members and HC members. They have many webinars posted on their website regarding a variety of topics.

**Other Business:**

N/A

**BOS/Other Town Organization Updates:**

 **Historic District Commission:**

The HDC approved four new windows at their last meeting. Their next meeting, on February 13th, will be a public hearing.

 **Selectboard:**

Pedro Avila is the new full time building inspector/code enforcement officer. He used to work in Concord, NH, Alton Bay, NH, and Cranston, RI holding the same/similar position.

Ballots were counted by 11:30 pm following the last election. There are four more elections this year. February 3rd is the deliberative session starting at 9am in the Town Hall. There are three openings on the Selectboard. The filing period opened on 1/24 and closes on 2/2 at 5pm in the Town Clerk’s office.

**Next Meeting:** February 22nd, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Kingston Community Library.

**End Meeting:**  Glenn made a motion to end the meeting at 7:34 pm. Seconded by Susan Prescott. All in favor.

**Minutes Recorded:** by Sarah Bufano

*Disclaimer: HC minutes are reviewed and approved (with or without amendments) at the next HC meeting. Any amendments may be found in the minutes of the subsequent meeting in which the amendments were made.*