

HERITAGE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2013

The Heritage Commission held its regular monthly meeting in the City Council Chambers, City Hall Annex, 37 Green Street, Concord, New Hampshire, on Thursday, June 6, 2013, at 4:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Seating of Alternates:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m. Present at the meeting were Chair Phil Donovan, and Members Fred Richards and Dr. Bryant Tolles.

Mr. Richards introduced guest Jay Doherty of the HL Turner Group, and a resident of Concord. He said Mr. Doherty was considering joining the Heritage Commission.

2. Approval of Minutes of the May 2, 2013 meeting:

The Commission tabled approval of the May 2, 2013 Minutes until next month because of the lack of a quorum.

3. New Business

a. Update on the 2013 CLG Grant

There was discussion on the fact that the grant for \$12,600 had been received. Mr. Richards said the geographical boundaries of the area to be surveyed in the West end would have to be refined. Chair Donovan said Nadine Peterson of the NH Division of Historic Resources wanted to see a revised timeline for the project.

Dr. Tolles noted that there hadn't been a lot of work done elsewhere on carriage houses and urban barns. Asked by Mr. Richards if he would like to be on the consultant selection committee, Dr. Tolles said yes.

b. Update on the Downtown Complete Streets Improvement Project

Chair Donovan noted that final approval of the plan was scheduled for that evening, and said he hoped the City Council made the right decision on this.

4. Regular business

a. Demolition Review – Committee Report

Mr. Richards said the time had expired concerning the barn on East Mountain Road, so they had to sign off on it. He said he didn't know if the barn had been taken down yet.

b. Heritage Sign Program

Chair Donovan noted that Ms. Durgy Brooks was not present to report on the program.

c. Grant Funding Work Group

Chair Donovan said he didn't want the Commission to lose sight of this, and noted that he had discussed with Ms. MacPherson the need to find ways to get money for documenting demolitions. He said she had been working on trying to get Code Enforcement to work with the Heritage Commission on this. He said this matter was a real priority for the Commission.

Mr. Richards said he would help identify private and public sources of funding that the Commission would need to approach.

Chair Donovan said he was thinking not only about grants, but also about possible permit fee increases. There was discussion.

5. Informational Items

Chair Donovan said he'd received a call from Jonathan Halle of Warren Street Architects concerning the Binnie Media project. He said there were some concerns regarding some minor changes to the plan that had been presented to the Heritage Commission last month, involving the TV and radio antennas getting somewhat larger.

Chair Donovan said he met with Deputy City Manager Carlos Baia on Monday to see if the issue rose to the level of having to come back to the Heritage Commission. He noted that the applicant would be going to the June Planning Board meeting. Chair Donovan said he and Mr. Baia felt that the changes involved were very minor, and were of no real consequence to the building. He said the informal decision was that the applicant should keep going with the current process, with the understanding that if there were other changes made to the plan, the Heritage Commission would need to know about them.

He noted a letter in members' packets from the NH Division of Historical Resources commenting on the project, which indicated that they didn't like the musical notes aspect of the design. He noted that the musical notes didn't change the building itself.

He said the other NH Division of Historical Resources letters in the packets didn't contain enough information for the Commission to make a determination, so would only be considered for informational purposes.

6. Any other business to come before the Commission.

Chair Donovan said as Chair, he would be sending out an email that stating that it was the responsibility of Heritage Commission members to attend the monthly meetings, and also stating that members should be courteous about reporting when they would not be able to attend a meeting.

Mr. Richards noted that the Heritage Commission was looking for alternates.

Dr. Tolles moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Richards seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment at 4:47 pm.