

**HERITAGE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes**

April 4, 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, April 4, 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, Members, Fred Richards, Robert Johnson, Carol Brooks and Alternate Member Marilyn Fraser, who was seated for Member Rick Jacques. City Planner Gloria McPherson was also present.

2. Minutes of the March 7 and March 21, 2013 meetings:

The Commission considered the minutes of the March 7 and March 21, 2013, Heritage Commission meetings. A motion was made by Mr. Johnson to accept both sets of minutes as written and seconded by Ms. Fraser. Motion carried unanimously.

3. New Business:

a. Section 106 Review: 2 Pillsbury Street – Changes to telecommunications facility

Ms. McPherson described the proposed addition of antennas to the building at 2 Pillsbury Street and showed the Commission photos that were submitted as part of the application for a Conditional Use Permit from the Planning Board.

The Commission had no objections to the proposal to add antennas. Ms. McPherson offered to send a letter or email to that effect to the DHR.

b. Update of the 2013 CLG Grant

Ms. McPherson reported that they have not yet received comments from the DHR regarding the letter of intent that was sent last month. She offered to follow up with Nadine Peterson.

c. Update of the proposed plans for Walker School

Mr. Donovan updated the Commissioners not present at the March 21 meeting regarding Walker School, stating that everyone at the meeting was generally pleased with the proposal from Mr. Binnie, especially replacing the windows with period-appropriate windows, removing the chain link fencing and installing landscaping. The proposed landscape plan was passed around for the Commissioners to view.

Mr. Donovan talked about the controversy surrounding the memorial park on site. Mr. Binnie had proposed to move it to a different location on site, but the Commission received a letter from the family opposing moving the memorials. Mr. Donovan read the letter aloud.

Mr. Johnson noted that the consensus of the Commission was to move the memorial park to the corner of Church Street and State Street because the current location on Bouton Street is too busy with traffic and no one can read the plaques or enjoy the location. He suggested that someone approach the family with sensitivity about the benefits of relocating the park.

Mr. Richards noted that it was not helpful that they heard about the proposal to move the memorials from reading it in the Monitor rather than from Mr. Binnie's consultant team.

Mr. Johnson suggested that the Commission acknowledge the letter and let the family know that the Commission empathizes with their situation. Mr. Donovan stated that he would do that.

The discussion returned to the changes proposed for the Walker School. Mr. Richards stated that on balance, he believes it is a good reuse of the school, but Mr. Johnson thought the note holding up the entrance canopy was not in keeping with the school structure. Mr. Donovan noted that it was whimsical and removable, leaving no permanent changes to the structure, and Ms. Brooks added that she thought it looks "elementary" like the school.

Ms. Brooks asked if there would be design review of the sign.

Ms. McPherson stated that the whole project would need design review approval, the site, building and all signage, from both the Heritage Commission, as part of the Certificate of Approval process, and the Planning Board, as part of site plan approval.

4. Regular Business:

a. Demolition Review – Committee Report

Mr. Richards described the house on Hoit Road that was recently demolished, stating that it probably dates from the 1860s-1870s and was built for a cooper, as listed in the City Directory. He noted there was a cooperage shop ¼ mile up the road and a lot of mills along the river 150 years ago, although you would not know it now. He stated that the research is done and the house is down.

Mr. Richards discussed a camp on Broad Cove Road that was proposed to be demolished. He stated that it was hand-built after WWII, likely by Russell Crowell who was a carpenter. The current owner is the second owner. Mr. Richards stated that he has photographed the structure from the outside, but would like to document the inside too. Ms. McPherson passed around proposed building plans for the new structure, which was generally agreed to be attractive.

b. Heritage Sign Program

Ms. Brooks informed the Commission that there are no new sign applications and there were no takers on the private workshop proposed to be offered.

Ms. Brooks mentioned that she could not find the Heritage Sign Program link on the new website. Ms. McPherson stated that all links were supposed to have been kept, but she would look into the situation. Ms. Brooks noted that there should also be links to the library site documents directly from the Heritage Commission and Sign Program pages because people need to be able to access that information in order to do their research.

c. Grant Funding Working Group

Mr. Donovan reported that there are no updates except that Ms. McPherson has contacted Code to set up a meeting regarding the Demolition Fee, but that the meeting has not yet occurred. He noted that any money received should go to the Heritage Trust Fund rather than the General Fund.

5. Informational Items:

a. Downtown Complete Streets Improvement Project

Ms. McPherson updated the Commission on the project. The Section 106 Review has been completed for the streetscape elements. There was a determination of no adverse effects. She noted that issues of accessibility to individual buildings were not considered in the review. Currently right-of-way research is underway for Phenix Avenue and the State House Plaza.

b. NH DHR letter regarding determination of National Register eligibility for the Revised Boston & Maine RR Shops Complex Area Form

Mr. Richards commented that there was such a small vestige left of what was originally at this site that he is not sure about eligibility.

There being no further business, the Commission generally agreed to adjourn and the meeting was closed at 5:20 p.m.

Gloria McPherson
City Planner