

Heritage Commission
New Ipswich, New Hampshire
Meeting Minutes

Date: June 28, 2017

Present: Fran Atchison, Jim Coffey, Mark Hopkins, Stan Long

Absent:: Carmen Madrid, Becky Doyle (Town Administration Representative), Jay Hopkins
(Selectman Representative)

Next Meeting: July 26, 2017

Call to Order

The Heritage Commission meeting was called to order at 6:10pm at the Town Office. We attempted to conference in Carmen, who was out of town, but could not get through.

Fran moved to dispense reading of the minutes from the April meeting. It was seconded by Mark.

Discussion/Action Items

The monthly meeting scheduled for May 24th was not held as we did not have enough commission members present for a quorum. We discussed whether or not monthly meetings would be problematic for anyone and it was unanimously agreed that there is ample commitment and enthusiasm to move forward with projects relating to the heritage of New Ipswich.

At our last meeting we identified three structures in New Ipswich which might be candidates for an initial town heritage project: the Old Town Hall, the Schoolhouse and the Fire Station on Main Street. Heritage Commission members had an opportunity to visit these three properties prior to our meeting. We unanimously agreed to address the renovation of the Old Town Hall as a first project. As the property has recently been surveyed and a report produced outlining the needed repairs, this structure is less of an unknown than the others.

Jim raised the subject of the official incorporation date for the town of New Ipswich. According to his research, the town was named Ipswich in 1763 and in 1767 laid out as New Ipswich. Although there was a town 250th anniversary celebration a few years back, we would like to investigate the actual date of incorporation to determine if this is the actual 250th year and something we could communicate or celebrate.

We also discussed fund raising activities to help with restoration initiatives. Fran mentioned the idea of historic house plaques, with examples from Salem, Ipswich and Marblehead, MA, which are researched and sold to fund town restoration/historic efforts. Jim believes this requires the creation of a separate 501C3 entity.

Mark Hopkins told the group that he has been appointed the Building Manager for the Town of New Ipswich.

Takeaways from this meeting include the following:

- ✎ Fran will ask Selectman David Lage to put a job out to bid to restore the old town hall (post meeting note – we must produce a RFP at the selectmens meeting)
- ✎ Jim will investigate the process for forming a 501C3 to enable fund raising for the Heritage Commission building restorations (post meeting note – Selectman Lage believes there is no need for a separate entity for town project fund raising – to be discussed)
- ✎ Mark will request time on the agenda for the upcoming town selectmen meeting to discuss the town's official incorporation and any related change in the observance of this milestone as well as the bidding process for restoration of Old Town Hall (post meeting note - this will be addressed once the RFP has been prepared. Fran will work with Mark to create the document.)

Adjournment

Jim moved to adjourn the meeting and Stan seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 26, 2017 at 6:00 pm