

Heritage Commission
New Ipswich, New Hampshire
Meeting Minutes

Date: December 27, 2017

Present: Fran Atchison, Jim Coffey, Mark Hopkins

Absent: , Stan Long, Carmen Madrid, Jay Hopkins (Selectman Representative)

Next Meeting: January 24, 2018

Call to Order

The Heritage Commission meeting was called to order at 6:10pm at the New Ipswich Town Office by Fran Atchison, seconded by Mark Hopkins.

Discussion/Action Items

1. House Plaques

- It had been suggested earlier in the year that we use the creation/sale of historic house plaques as a means to raise funds for our projects. Mark will call the Scout Master to inquire about the Boy Scout Troop's interest in assisting with the plaques as a merit-based project. Based on their response, Fran will follow up with next steps to either work with the Scouts or pursue another approach, possibly creating our own.

2. Old Town Hall Restoration

- Mark informed us that there were no attendees at the site walk-through on October 20, 2017.
- A single bid was submitted. Mark will talk to the Town Administrator regarding protocol for a single bid.
- The commission speculated on why there were no initial bids. The notice was thought to be well distributed through public notice, September 26 edition of the Monadnock Ledger-Transcript and on the New Ipswich town web site, posted on September 21st. The town also sent the notice directly to contractors found on the Directory of Old House Resources published by the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance. However the job itself is small which might have dissuaded contractors from bidding.

3. 250th Documentation Update

- In our search for town memorabilia for Autumn Fest we were discovered, at NI Town Hall, a single volume of a set of five VHS tapes created for the sesquicentennial
- We agreed a complete set would be a valuable heritage archive and should be upgraded to DVD and or posted on-line for people to view. Fran will work on this

4. Municipal Firehouse Restoration

- We discussed the merits of directing our efforts to the restoration of the Municipal Firehouse on Main Street. As established at an earlier meeting, this site is important to the town's heritage. The building, which is in need of some repair, houses both a 19th century hand pumped fire engine and a 1927 Wachusett fire truck.
- David Cotzin informed us of some known repair needs which include: chimney repair, window removal on the addition (lean-to), replacement of some clapboards and exterior paint
- Towards the restoration of the Municipal Fire House, David Cotzin stated there has been a \$1,500 donation of paint. Exterior work can begin in the spring. An estimate will be required for repair to the chimney.
- We will continue discussion of the firehouse restoration at our next meeting to include: creating a calendar, planning an 'event', attracting volunteers

4. Additional Items for Heritage Commission consideration

- There are two hearses, one of which is a sleigh, belonging to the town and housed at the Barrett mansion. It was mentioned that we should learn more about the arrangement we have with the Barrett mansion.
- The clock on the church bell tower which belongs to the Town of New Ipswich is in need of repair/restoration. A restoration expert will need to be found. It was thought that any extra paint from the firehouse might be donated to the church.

Next Meeting

We agreed to address the repair schedule for the firehouse and the needed work on the war memorial fence to our next meeting.

Adjournment

Jim moved to adjourn the meeting and Mark seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 24, 2018 at 6:00 pm

Respectfully,

Fran Atchison
Secretary