

**Heritage Commission
Danville, NH
Minutes of May 14, 2014 Meeting**

Members Present: Carol Baird (Chair), Bill Gard (member), Linda Roth (member)
Annemarie Inman (Selectmen's member)

Absent & Excused: Amber-Rose McIntyre (Vice Chair), Laurie Crevatis-clerk

Carol called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. The camera person was not available and the meeting was not televised.

Draft Minutes of April 23, 2014

The draft minutes of the April 23, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Changes were made and the members agreed to ask the clerk to send a new draft out for final review so we can vote on them at the next meeting. Carol will make the changes and forward the new draft to the clerk so she can circulate it to the members along with the minutes from this meeting.

Mail/Announcements

- An email from Janet Denison regarding a grants training session in Portland ME on July 21-22, 2014. The tuition is \$425 and it appears to be a 2-day session. Carol will hold the information if any members wish to attend.
- An email from the Preservation Alliance regarding Preservation Month events. They include the annual award ceremony in Concord on May 13 and a Meet-up with Van McLeod, Commissioner of the NH Dept. of Cultural Resources, on Partnerships in Cultural Heritage Tourism on May 15 from 1-3 p.m. at the Winnepesaukee Playhouse in Meredith, NH.
- A letter from Mary Ann DiStefano with her research about food that would have been served at stage coach stations in the 1800's.

Discussion

Preservation Achievement Award - NH Preservation Alliance

Carol and Bill attended the ceremony on May 13 in Concord. Former Heritage chairmen, Ron DiCarlo and Joe Luna and former Heritage member, Julie DiCarlo also attended. The Danville Heritage Commission was presented with an award for the rescue and restoration of the Webster Stagecoach Stop & Store during the ceremony. Bill gave an overview of the ceremony and the Commission's award. Carol brought in the framed award, a print-out of the Preservation Alliance's presentation speech and a copy of the program. It was agreed to give these items to Annemarie to announce and share at the next meeting of the Selectmen. Carol mentioned we will need to find a suitable place to hang the award.

The NH Preservation Alliance is issuing a press release about all the awards to local papers. A copy of the press release was sent to Carol and it is pretty generic, with just one sentence about Danville's award. Bill would like to write a detailed article for the Carriage Towne News as soon as possible because the editor is retiring this month. Linda made a motion, seconded by Annemarie, to have Bill's draft article circulated to the members for review by email. There was no further discussion and the vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

The Preservation Alliance is also providing unframed copies of the award to the partners listed in the program and Jennifer Goodman has asked if we wish to send them ourselves or prefer to have the Alliance send them. All members agreed it would be a nice touch for the partners to receive the awards directly from the Alliance and Carol will let Jennifer Goodman know that.

Update-Eagle Scout project - Tuckertown Rangeway Trail

Carol and Bill visited the unfinished part of the trail with Caleb Cretian and his mother on April 30. The surveyor's pins and wooden stakes are still in place and visible. The pins have been spray-painted with orange paint on their tops and the wooden stakes have colored plastic ties. Though someone had done some minor clearing when Carol and Bill were out there in 2012, nothing more has been done. The group walked the trail to a wet area, which will need some type of crossing to get to the other side. This side of the trail has some steep slopes and Caleb mentioned some hand assists might be helpful to walkers in these areas. There may also be additional wet areas that may need crossings.

During the site visit Carol noticed there is only one red and white sign marking the trail entrance and that sign is on the easterly side of the trail that is already finished. After the visit she checked the paperwork and confirmed that Heritage did order two signs, with the intent that there would be one on each side of Caleb Drive at the trail entrances. Carol called Bruce Caillouette, our Highway Agent, who worked with Heritage and the State, to create the signs. Bruce reminded Carol the second sign was not put up because the westerly side of the trail was unfinished. Bruce has the sign at the highway garage and will put it up when he is notified the trail is done and ready to be marked.

It was noted there should probably be a sign at the end of this part of the trail that marks the Sandown town border so people will know the trail ends there.

Carol has been in touch with Chris Lauria, the abutter on the corner at the entrance, who has expressed interest in working with Caleb on the trail. Carol will also see if she can find out the status of the Colby Pond open space that abuts this section of the trail to see if that space is for the use of the general public or Colby Pond residents only.

Caleb also called Carol tonight and said he will let her know his decision about taking on the trail project by Sunday, May 18.

Tax Incentives for Village Districts

Carol brought in information from the NH Preservation Alliance about a tax break that can be offered to people who rehabilitate property in a town's village center. Danville now has a village district and Carol pointed out Danville's Master Plan goal, and a desire expressed many times by the town residents, that Danville's rural character be preserved. She expressed concern for some of the aging properties on Main Street and wondered if this tax break program could be an incentive to rehabilitate some of those properties and avoid demolition.

RSA 79-E (Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive) requires a warrant article be passed at town meeting to give the town and the selectmen authority to use this tool. Once RSA 79-E is adopted locally, a property owner who wants to substantially rehabilitate a building located in a downtown or village center may apply to the selectmen and a public hearing is required. The rehabilitation costs must be at least 15% of the building's pre-rehab assessed value, or \$75,000, whichever is less. If approved, the property owner receives a period of relief from increased property taxes, usually 5 years. In exchange, the property owner grants a covenant for a certain period of years ensuring there is continuing public benefit to the rehabilitation. Following expiration of the finite tax relief period, the structure would be taxed at its full market value taking into account the rehabilitation.

Everyone agreed it would be important to have support from the selectmen to entertain a warrant article for this. The information was given to Annemarie, who will share it with the other selectmen and get their thoughts.

Stagecoach Stop - Celebration Opening - Sept. 7.

Invitations: Carol researched plain invitations and envelopes that we could print ourselves that would cost less than having them professionally printed. Linda brought in an invitation postcard from the Billerica Historical Society that was ordered from Vistaprint and the postcards are even more cost effective. Carol will do some more checking on the cost of postcards from Vistaprint. Carol mentioned we should probably try to get invitations out by August 1. Bill wondered if we should open the event to the general public and Carol mentioned costs of food and refreshments for that would probably be beyond our \$300 budget.

Postage: Carol checked postage costs and for 60 invitations the cost of Forever stamps (@49 cents each) would be \$29.40; the cost of postcard stamps (@34 cents each) would be \$20.40.

Tents: Linda has three 12 x 12 pop-up tents and Annemarie has a 10 x 10 tent.

Tables: We could probably borrow these from the Meeting House or Community Center.

Port-A-Potty: Bill feels this is a necessity and Carol mentioned it may be our highest cost. She will check what the cost was for the 250th Celebration.

Paper goods: If refreshments are served we will need cups, plates and napkins and need to factor in that cost.

Refreshments: Appetizers and punch were mentioned, perhaps in keeping with what they cooked back then and we will give this some thought. It was suggested perhaps all of us could bake something and/or approach Hannaford for a donation.

Stagecoach Information: Bill mentioned a gentlemen who is somehow involved with stagecoaches in New Hampshire spoke with Julie DiCarlo at the awards ceremony on May 13. Carol said she will contact Julie and find out more.

Final work on Stagecoach Stop: Bill expressed his concern about the work being finished if we are sending out invitations for Sept. 7. Carol said Mr. Decatur has indicated the window work will be done by August 1. Annemarie offered to call Bob Pothier about the plaster and woodwork repairs if there has been no activity on that by mid-June.

The meeting ended at 9:05.

DRAFT MINUTES ARE NOT A PERMANENT RECORD AND ARE SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING OF THE HERITAGE COMMISSION, AT WHICH TIME THE MINUTES, AS AMENDED AND APPROVED, BECOME PERMANENT.

MINUTES PREPARED BY CAROL BAIRD

Amended/Approved on _____, 2014 by majority vote of the Commission.

Next meeting: May 28, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.