

Heritage Commission
Danville, NH
Minutes of April 22, 2015, Meeting

Present: Carol Baird (Chair), Linda Roth (Vice-Chair), Mary Ann DiStefano (Member),
Selectperson Member: Annemarie Inman

Absent & Excused: Aamber-Rose McIntyre (Alternate member) and Laurie Crevatis (Clerk)

Carol called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. The meeting was televised.

Draft Minutes of April 8th, 2015

Draft Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2015 were reviewed and corrections made. A motion was made by Mary Ann to accept minutes as amended. Seconded by Annemarie. The motion passed unanimously.

Mail/Announcements

HC Membership Openings- Carol read a statement announcing the availability of seats on the Heritage Commission: for one Full member (3 yr.); and 2 alternates (1 yr. & 3 yr.) Mary Ann read the notice that was sent to the *Carriage Town News* and appeared on Page 2.

- “The Danville Heritage Commission is in need of one full member (3 year term) and two alternate members (1-one year term and 1-three year term). Meetings are held at the town hall on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Established by Danville voters in 1996, the Heritage Commission is an official town board created to serve the town, the residents and organizations. Its mission is to oversee and protect the historic district and identify those places in Danville that embody the character, culture, and tradition handed down through generations. If you are a Danville resident and love history and/or historic buildings, please consider serving.
Contact information: The Heritage Commission may be reached by calling the Board of Selectmen Office at the Danville Town Hall (603-382-8253x3) or write to us at 210 Main Street, Danville, NH 03819.”

Carol noted the announcement was on Danville Community Facebook page as well.

Carol received an announcement received from the NH Preservation Alliance stating that May is Preservation Month. Suggestions for celebrating preservation include reading about your town, attending a performance in an historic theater, take a friend or family member to an historic site, and/or participating in a Preservation Alliance workshop on May 9th from 10 AM-2:30 PM. One of the presentations on the agenda is: “*Stone Foundations and Walls*” by Kevin Fife, who does stonework for the cemetery trustees here in Danville. The workshop will be held at the NH Farm Museum, Milton, NH. Carol mentioned other topics to be discussed at this workshop. For members the cost is \$25.00 and non-members \$35.00, and a new member special for \$45.00. Bring ones’ own lunch, a light snack will be provided. Carol then stated that

the NH Preservation Alliance also had “For Your House Technical Tips” for those who own old properties. <http://www.nhpreservation.org/get-answers/for-your-older-house.html> Some of the topics include: architectural styles, maintenance for your home, energy advice for older homes, old house weatherization tips, ice dams, and Rufus Porter Murals (some have been found in homes here in Danville). Other items mentioned were painting tips and how to remove rust. Carol noted this is a great resource for those who own older homes.

An acknowledgement that a \$50.00 check, donated to the Heritage Commission, was received by the Town Treasurer and deposited.

An email arrived from the NH Division of Historic Resources asking that we take a survey because they are preparing a 5-year plan regarding preservation in NH. This email is being distributed throughout NH. The survey was mentioned at the April 17th conference we attended and they encouraged participation. Carol explained it is a simple 14-question survey. She passed out information on the survey to the commission members present. If permission is granted, Carol will email the link to the survey to the members. The information they receive helps because they get some funding from the federal government. The members present wished to have the information emailed to them. Mary Ann made a motion allowing Carol to email the link, seconded by Linda and passed unanimously. Deadline for the survey is May 31st.

Discussion and Status Updates

Carol stated that the State Register Listing for the Little Red School was mailed on April 9th. She informed the group that comments were voiced at the conference that the application was received. Included was the inventory form, the old postcard showing the building and the signed letter by Shawn O’Neil, as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, acknowledging town ownership. Hopefully this will complete the project.

Report on April 17 Preservation Alliance Conference in Concord which Carol and Mary Ann attended. Mary Ann reported first. Except for the opening remarks she found the day informative and worth attending. A lady spoke on local farms. What was interesting was the fact that from 1982-2007 NH lost 1 out of 4-farms, from 1997-2002 Seacoast/Rockingham County lost 1 out of 3 farms. Presently local farms are becoming more popular secondary to farmers markets. Another topic was: Trends and Opportunities for Historic Houses and Museums. There is a regional planning footprint and the Division of Historic Resources will work on the previously mentioned 5-year plan. Another subject presented was: Saving Historic Buildings and Museums. Heather Mitchell, Hopkington Historical Society, spoke on how they saved Bear Brook State Park by utilizing: community Involvement, connection to place i.e. social Media/Facebook, pride in community, holding exhibits of buildings and trails, fundraising with family Involvement, project snapshots and library involvement and programs. Mary Ann stated her favorite presentation was on Marketing and Media. The speaker mentioned a phrase that she really liked. “ It’s Not Good because it’s Old, It’s Old because it is good”, emphasizing that with old buildings “once it’s gone, it’s gone”. The concepts of Preservation are: Value of the task-Don’t lose Context, Keep it for The Future and Develop the Sense that it is a Special Place. They talked about generating interest with compelling and motivating stories, i.e.: Talk about the building, talk about the people and develop the message. A

woman from the Vermont equivalent of the NH Preservation Alliance spoke on how they saved the only single chair skiff remaining in the country (Mad River). She utilized short videos. Starting with 10 minutes then shortening them to 2 minutes. The videos are on their website and consisted of photo collages, story telling about the history, and how the restoration was accomplished. Local musicians provided the background music. Local musicians loved getting involved. She spoke on how grant monies were obtained. A portion of the story is now in the Library of Congress. It is privately owned and not by a big company.

Mary Ann then reported on the last lecture by a young man from The Plymouth State University Center for Rural Partnerships. He partnered with Lancaster NH and created the *"Stories of people and places of Lancaster, NH"* the background was obtained by talking to the locals. The college interns did research. They utilized the local high school history department and made sure they had accurate historical facts. It took about 2-months to do the research and 3-months to write and prepare and will be linked to the town website. It will be available the end of the month. The enthusiasm for the project was clear in his presentation. He stated that projects like this historically connects generations. Places to pursue for facts are: the history of the town, local newspaper, obituaries, church records, and tax and real estate records. The completed project was titled: 'Lancaster NH, Township Legacy and Guide'.

Lastly she attended the segment about grants and fundraising. It was disappointing because it was more about where to apply for grant money, many which this commission has applied for and received. She had hope it would be more about how to apply for a grant. The list of grant possibilities include:

1. CDFA – Community Development Finance Authority
<http://www.nhcdfa.org>
2. NHDHR – NH Division of Historical Resources
<https://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/>
3. LCHIP – Land and Community Heritage Investment Program
<http://www.lchip.org>
4. Moose Plates
5. Money from Deeds
6. Funding from Legislature
7. Meeting Treasury Department Standards for Historic Places
8. Plan for a Capitol Campaign
9. RSA 79D Tax relief for Homeowners of Historic Homes

Carol stated she checked RSA 79D out. It is for agricultural historic properties. She then mentioned that on page two of the sheet Carol commented on a beautifully done webpage featuring the Old Meeting House. The link is:

http://www.colonialmeetinghouses.com/mh_danville.shtml

Carol then presented a report on the sessions she attended She mentioned Bob Pothier was in attendance, how well he looks and reported he was working on demolishing the Sweet House. He reported that all the boards were blackened from fireplace use. The original part of the house was a half house. Approximately ten years later the another half house was added. He was documenting the project and would give the commission a CD with his photos. Mr Page lived there. Carol then commented on the media and marketing section. Discussing a 1-2 minute video on web sites, of telling a story. Hopefully we can do this when the new town website is launched. Also mentioned was the use of QR codes, which we will use on the

145 bookmarks. Commented on at two of the tracks she attended was how difficult it is to get the
146 schools involved. It was suggested to utilize the library with storytelling sessions, having
147 commission members tell the stories, show photos or invite people to come and tell their
148 stories. Carol suggested talking to the library about this. This may help with one of our goals to
149 integrate with the children of the town. During lunch we had a walking tour of NH Historical
150 Society building and NH State Library by Jim Garvin, retired member of the Division of Historic
151 Resources. He has done lots of historical work on the Danville Meeting House. He was the
152 one who discovered the date the Old Meeting House was actually constructed in 1755. The
153 purpose of the walking tour was how to renovate and keep within the Interior Department of
154 Standards. The domed skylights were not energy efficient, therefore new lighting was added
155 and a film made by 3M was put between window and and the dome. Peter Mchaud, Easement
156 coordinator from the NH Division of Historic Resources showed plans for adding an addition to
157 a historic building while following the Standards. The town hall looked similar to ours. He
158 explained how an expansion could be done without changing the character of the building.
159 Carol and Mary Ann gave examples of how that would affect updating our town hall. Carol
160 reminded the group that a feasibility study on our townhall was done by an architect a few
161 years back. She asked Mr. Michaud if the NH Division of Historical Resources (NHDHR) would
162 accept this report. He said they would. This was valueable information if the town ever decides
163 to update the building. Carol's last track was on survey topics. *Continuing on the Road to*
164 *Preservation and Success in NH.* Amy Dixon who worked with us on the StageCoach Stop
165 was there. As well as Mary Kay Ryan, who worked with us on the Little Red School House
166 application, Jim Garvin and Linda Wilson who helped with the formation of this Heritage
167 Commission. Also at that track were the two young people from the Lancaster presentation.
168 Carol raised the issue about helping owners of historic properties with maintainance issues.
169 Sometimes they do not know how to tackle this, funds may be limited or what the best
170 practices are in historic preservation. The suggestion from Nadine Peterson (NHDHR) was to
171 hold workshops and invite in speakers. Invite homeowners and construction people. Topics
172 could include: setting priorities of projects, budget and finding people to do the work. Mary Ann
173 asked if can ask for payment to attend, especially from out of towners. Can She was informed
174 that we could not charge because we are a municipality but could ask for donation. Carol
175 stated we could ask some of the members of NHDHP or the Alliance to come. This would be a
176 good fall project. Sponsoring this would bring interest to heritage commission. We could invite
177 residents of the surrounding towns. Obtaining speakers and organization would be the most
178 difficult part. Carol willcheck on speakers. Bob Pothier for one. Carol noted that Concord is a
179 great city to visit with lots of beautiful buildings. Parking is reasonable and walkable. Mary Ann
180 informed the group that when visiting the NH Historical Society building if you call ahead, they
181 assemble information on Danville for you.

182
183 At the last meeting questions arose about the Heritage RSA information - Danville HC powers
184 and authority; Heritage Fund uses. Carol handed out a printed sheet listing the RSA's
185 governing Heritage Commissions and Historic Districts. She read excerpts from the NH
186 Statues Title LXIV Planning and Zoning Chapter 674 Local Land Use Planning an Regulatory
187 Powers –RSA 673, 674:44 Heritage Commission, 674:44b Powers and 674:44-d
188 Appropriations Authorized. She then read excerpts from the Historic District section, 674:46-a.
189 Powers and Duties of the Historic Distric Commission. She noted Section V, which states that
190 “the historic district Commission may assume, if authorized by the local legislative body, the
191 composition and duties of heritage commissions. This came into effect in 1995. The Danville
192 Heritage Commission was one of the first Commissions created with this dual function. The

193 voters approved this and the Historic District followed. She then noted under Appropriations
194 Authorized the RSA states that money may be expended from such fund by the heritage
195 commission for its purposes without further approval of the local legislative body. However, our
196 treasurer has asked that we get approval from the Board of Selectman. The disbursement of
197 Heritage funds shall be authorized by a majority of the Heritage Commission. She hopes this
198 will help us when making decisions.
199

200 Carol asked that we set a date to do a walking check on the east side of the Tuckertown
201 Rangeway Walking trail. After the group discussed available dates. June 7th at 11AM was
202 agreed upon. If rain is predicted, Saturday June 6th will be the date.
203

204 Carol informed the group that Bill Gard called regarding Danville Old Home Day asking if
205 members of this commission would “man” our historic buildings for the Aug 23rd date. Carol
206 sent an email to Peter Meigs, asking if he would again man the Little Red School house this
207 year. She also emailed Jan Danisevich, Old Meeting House historian, to ask if she would be
208 available for the Old Meeting House along with Bill Gard. Mary Ann agreed to be at the
209 Stagecoach Stop.
210

211 Carol reported she had a call from a member of the Sandown Conservation Commission,
212 Pamela Gaudreau, who wishes to link some Sandown trails to Danville trails. They connected
213 because of Caleb’s Eagle Scout Project. She was happy about the project because it ends at
214 the Sandown town line. Sandown has had Eagle Scout projects done for their commission.
215 Carol updated her on Caleb’s project plans. Pamela would like to attend our meeting when
216 Caleb is scheduled to update us on his project and is very pleased that at least one trail may
217 connect to Sandown. She informed Carol she is the niece of Ruth Rich who wrote the history
218 of Danville.
219

220 Danville Stagecoach Stop and Store pamphlet update was tabled until next meeting.
221 Annemarie stated that she still needs to search for the deed to the White School House to
222 obtain more information as that must physically be searched for at the Rockingham County
223 Registry of Deeds.
224

225 **Adjournment:**

226
227 Mary Ann made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 PM, seconded by Linda. The motion
228 passed unanimously.
229

230
231
232 **MINUTES PREPARED BY MARY ANN DISTEFANO**
233

234
235 **Amended/Approved on May 13, 2015 by majority of the Commission**