

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Danville Heritage Commission**  
**June 17, 2015**

**Present:** Regular Members: Carol Baird (Chair), Mary Ann DiStefano (Member), Amber-Rose McIntyre (Alternate)

**Also Present:** Laurie Crevatis (Clerk)

**Absent and Excused:** Linda Roth (Vice Chair)

The meeting was called to order by Carol Baird at 7:47 p.m. The meeting was televised.

Carol appointed Amber-Rose as a voting member in the absence of Linda for the purposes of tonight's meeting.

The May 27 and June 10 meetings were cancelled due to lack of quorum.

**Draft Minutes of May 13, 2015 Meeting**

The draft minutes of the May 13, 2015 meeting were reviewed and changes made. Mary Ann made a motion that Laurie make the edits to the minutes, resend them to the members, and vote to accept them at the next meeting. Amber-Rose seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Mail/Announcements**

- The Heritage Commission has one full member (three 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.
- A notice was received from Amy Dixon who now works at the New Hampshire Division of Historic Resources (NHDHR) regarding a new grant funding application available which is based on emergency management and disaster planning of historic properties. There is \$200,000 available and it is not a matching grant, but you have to pay and then they will reimburse you. This came about as a result of Hurricane Sandy. Six counties (Belknap, Carroll, Coos, Grafton, Rockingham and Sullivan) are eligible to apply.

The 2015 grant round opens June 15, 2015. Applications are due on August 10, 2015. Grant funding may be used for:

- Updating an historic inventory or Master Plan to address disaster planning for historical reasons.

- Listing historic properties or districts to the National Register of Historic Places, with priority given to those in vulnerable or disaster-prone areas.
- Identification and inventory of particularly vulnerable or significant historic and archaeological properties.
- Town-wide, district or neighborhood inventories.
- Disaster mitigation plans for properties or districts eligible or listed to the National Register of Historic Places; see FEMA publication 386-6 for a suggested format.
- Innovative projects that serve as a model for other communities or property owners as they integrate historic and cultural resources with disaster mitigation planning.

It seems first we must find any vulnerable areas that may be subject to disaster. Town owned properties that are listed on the National Register that may be eligible are the property on Main Street, the Town Hall, the Meeting House, and the property on Beech Plain Road. The focus would be on just those and to find out if they are in harm's way. Someone with knowledge would be needed as well as scientific data. It was agreed this is something that Heritage could better handle working on next year. Aamber-Rose pointed out the Little Red School house is in need but it is not on the National Register. The Elm Farm may be eligible. It was pointed out that at Shawn O'Neil may be involved with the emergency preparedness committee and it may be worth asking him if he has considered this problem. Carol will draft a letter to the Selectmen for review at the next meeting asking if the town would be interested in pursuing this. Carol pointed out it applies not only to town owned property but private property of historic significance.

- The Humanities Council is 40 years old this year and they are celebrating by naming 40 people who made outstanding contributions. Jim Garvin is one of them. She will draft a letter for review at the next meeting to congratulate him. He retired from NHDHR. He had provided Heritage with two excellent reports; one was regarding the Old Meeting House's origin and connected the date to 1755 and he also did an intensive study of the Meeting House and when changes were made.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **1. LCHIP Check**

Heritage received an incentive check for \$200 from LCHIP with a letter addressed to Carol as chair, which Carol read. This incentive check is for Heritage's stewardship and monitoring of the Stagecoach Stop in 2014. This is not the first one Heritage has received. We will need to submit our same Stewardship Report for 2015 by the end of December 2015 in order to get an incentive check for next year. Mary Ann made a motion to put the check into the Heritage Fund. Aamber-Rose seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Carol will get the check to the treasurer tomorrow. Carol checked the Heritage Fund's balance and with this new check the balance will be approximately \$700.

### **2. Status-Research Project - Parsonage Fund and Cy Pres Petition**

To reiterate, Heritage is assisting the Board of Selectmen in doing research regarding the Cy Pres Petition that was recently filed. Per Carol, she and Bill Gard went to the Selectmen's meeting on May 27 and gave them the Parsonage time line, copies of four deeds to the land, information regarding who built the Old Meeting House and how the town got it. They

discovered information about the Separation of Church and State Act of 1819 (Toleration Act) and a relevant court decision. In this same year the religious society was making a claim for money for religious teaching. The court cited the 1819 Toleration Act and said the town did not owe the group any money.

Mary Ann and Carol went to the NH State Archives building in Concord, NH on June 9. Mary Ann started researching the Selectmen's minutes in the 1700s and nowhere was it called a "ministry." The town owned the Old Meeting House and appropriated money for it up to the 1800s. Per Carol, there were votes to sell wood, etc. or to rent, and it was evident in the information up until the separation of church and state. There was not a separate committee who oversaw the fund. It was put into a town fund not used strictly for preaching. This was found in the Selectmen's accounts. In 1792 they started the Parsonage Committee and money was used only after town vote. Carol found records here regarding the Parsonage Committee. The income generated from using and harvesting the land included interest which was used for maintenance of the Meeting House. There is more research to be done. Carol and Bill will meet with the Selectmen again who will decide what to do. The land is in the Town Forest and in the Historic District. In 1992 there was a town vote to disband the Parsonage Committee and turn the funds over to the trustees with the interest to be used to maintain the Meeting House, and this amendment was not recorded in the minutes and needs to be fixed down the road.

### **3. Selectmen's Member to Heritage Commission**

With Annemarie's departure Heritage no longer has a Selectmen's member and is required to by statute as well as by the Historic District Ordinance. Carol suggested sending a letter to the Selectmen to remind them of this. It was discussed that Joshua may have more knowledge for this position. Mary Ann made a motion to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen and ask if possibly Joshua could be the member. Amber-Rose seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Carol will get something to Patty tomorrow.

### **4. Meeting/Inspection Date – Little Red Schoolhouse**

The inspection is due by August. Paul, the camera man, said he can record a meeting at the site by portable camera. There is no electricity in the building so time will be a factor due to lack of sunlight. All agreed this will take place on July 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. (NOT 7:30 which is the usual meeting time). The clerk will send out a reminder to all. An inspection and brief agenda will be done at that time.

### **5. New Date – Site Visit/Inspection – East Side of Tuckertown Rangeway Walking Trail (June 7 canceled)**

Per Carol, there is no rush on this and discussion will be deferred to a September meeting.

### **6. Stagecoach Stop and Store Brochure and Bookmarks**

Neither Carol nor Mary Ann had a chance to work on these projects. It was discussed we would like to have them done for Old Home Day in August.

### **7. Old Home Day**

150 Mary Ann, Carol and Aamber-Rose would be available to man buildings. The Meeting House  
151 is covered. Peter Meigs hopes to man the Little Red Schoolhouse but if he is unavailable  
152 Heritage members will do it. That leaves the Stage Coach Stop and Store. All agreed to man  
153 the building(s) from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Carol will email Chris and tell her.

154 **ADJOURNMENT**

155 Mary Ann moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Aamber-Rose seconded the motion and  
156 it passed unanimously.

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158 **MINUTES PREPARED BY LAURIE J. CREVATIS, CLERK**

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160 **Amended/Approved on June 24, 2015 by majority vote of the Commission.**

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163 **Next Meeting: Regular Meeting on June 24, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.**