

1 Heritage Commission  
2 Danville, NH  
3 Minutes of April 22, 2015, Meeting  
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6 **Present:** Carol Baird (Chair), Linda Roth (Vice-Chair), Mary Ann DiStefano (Member),  
7 Selectperson Member: Annemarie Inman  
8

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

10 Carol called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. The meeting was televised.  
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12

13 **Draft Minutes of April 8th, 2015**  
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15 Draft Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2015 were reviewed and corrections made. A motion was  
16 made by Mary Ann to accept minutes as amended. Seconded by Annemarie. The motion  
17 passed unanimously.  
18

19 **Mail/Announcements**  
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21 HC Membership Openings- Carol read a statement announcing the availability of seats on the  
22 Heritage Commission: for one Full member (3 yr.); and 2 alternates (1 yr. & 3 yr.) Mary Ann  
23 read the notice that was sent to the *Carriage Town News* and appeared on Page 2.  
24

- 25 • “The Danville Heritage Commission is in need of one full member (3 year term) and two  
26 alternate members (1-one year term and 1-three year term).  
27 Meetings are held at the town hall on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month.  
28 Established by Danville voters in 1996, the Heritage Commission is an official town  
29 board created to serve the town, the residents and organizations. Its mission is to  
30 oversee and protect the historic district and identify those places in Danville that  
31 embody the character, culture, and tradition handed down through generations.  
32 If you are a Danville resident and love history and/or historic buildings, please consider  
33 serving.  
34 Contact information: The Heritage Commission may be reached by calling the Board of  
35 Selectmen Office at the Danville Town Hall (603-382-8253x3) or write to us at 210 Main  
36 Street, Danville, NH 03819.”  
37

38 Carol noted the announcement was on Danville Community Facebook page as well.  
39

40 Carol received an announcement received from the NH Preservation Alliance stating that May  
41 is Preservation Month. Suggestions for celebrating preservation include reading about your  
42 town, attending a performance in an historic theater, take a friend or family member to an  
43 historic site, and/or participating in a Preservation Alliance workshop on May 9<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM-2:  
44 30 PM. One of the presentations on the agenda is: “*Stone Foundations and Walls*” by Kevin  
45 Fife, who does stonework for the cemetery trustees here in Danville. The workshop will be held  
46 at the NH Farm Museum, Milton, NH. Carol mentioned other topics to be discussed at this  
47 workshop. For members the cost is \$25.00 and non-members \$35.00, and a new member  
48 special for \$45.00. Bring ones’ own lunch, a light snack will be provided. Carol then stated that

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

55  
56 An acknowledgement that a \$50.00 check, donated to the Heritage Commission, was received  
57 by the Town Treasurer and deposited.

58  
59 An email arrived from the NH Division of Historic Resources asking that we take a survey  
60 because they are preparing a 5-year plan regarding preservation in NH. This email is being  
61 distributed throughout NH. The survey was mentioned at the April 17<sup>th</sup> conference we  
62 attended and they encouraged participation. Carol explained it is a simple 14-question survey.  
63 She passed out information on the survey to the commission members present. If permission  
64 is granted, Carol will email the link to the survey to the members. The information they receive  
65 helps because they get some funding from the federal government. The members present  
66 wished to have the information emailed to them. Mary Ann made a motion allowing Carol to  
67 email the link, seconded by Linda and passed unanimously. Deadline for the survey is May  
68 31<sup>st</sup>.

### 69 70 71 **Discussion and Status Updates**

72  
73 Carol stated that the State Register Listing for the Little Red School was mailed on April 9th.  
74 She informed the group that comments were voiced at the conference that the application was  
75 received. Included was the inventory form, the old postcard showing the building and the  
76 signed letter by Shawn O’Neil, as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, acknowledging town  
77 ownership. Hopefully this will complete the project.

78  
79 Report on April 17 Preservation Alliance Conference in Concord which Carol and Mary Ann  
80 attended. Mary Ann reported first. Except for the opening remarks she found the day  
81 informative and worth attending. A lady spoke on local farms. What was interesting was the  
82 fact that from 1982-2007 NH lost 1 out of 4-farms, from 1997-2002 Seacoast/Rockingham  
83 County lost 1 out of 3 farms. Presently local farms are becoming more popular secondary to  
84 farmers markets. Another topic was: Trends and Opportunities for Historic Houses and  
85 Museums. There is a regional planning footprint and the Division of Historic Resources will  
86 work on the previously mentioned 5-year plan. Another subject presented was: Saving Historic  
87 Buildings and Museums. Heather Mitchell, Hopkington Historical Society, spoke on how they  
88 saved Bear Brook State Park by utilizing: community Involvement, connection to place i.e.  
89 social Media/Facebook, pride in community, holding exhibits of buildings and trails, fundraising  
90 with family Involvement, project snapshots and library involvement and programs. Mary Ann  
91 stated her favorite presentation was on Marketing and Media. The speaker mentioned a  
92 phrase that she really liked. “ It’s Not Good because it’s Old, It’s Old because it is good”,  
93 emphasizing that with old buildings “once it’s gone, it’s gone”. The concepts of Preservation  
94 are: Value of the task-Don’t lose Context, Keep it for The Future and Develop the Sense that it  
95 is a Special Place. They talked about generating interest with compelling and motivating  
96 stories, i.e.: Talk about the building, talk about the people and develop the message. A

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

104  
105 Mary Ann then reported on the last lecture by a young man from The Plymouth State  
106 University Center for Rural Partnerships. He partnered with Lancaster NH and created the  
107 "*Stories of people and places of Lancaster, NH*" the background was obtained by talking to the  
108 locals. The college interns did research. They utilized the local high school history department  
109 and made sure they had accurate historical facts. It took about 2-months to do the research  
110 and 3-months to write and prepare and will be linked to the town website. It will be available  
111 the end of the month. The enthusiasm for the project was clear in his presentation. He stated  
112 that projects like this historically connects generations. Places to pursue for facts are: the  
113 history of the town, local newspaper, obituaries, church records, and tax and real estate  
114 records. The completed project was titled: 'Lancaster NH, Township Legacy and Guide".  
115

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

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

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

135 [http://www.colonialmeetinghouses.com/mh\\_danville.shtml](http://www.colonialmeetinghouses.com/mh_danville.shtml)

136  
137 Carol then presented a report on the sessions she attended She mentioned Bob Pothier was in  
138 attendance, how well he looks and reported he was working on demolishing the Sweet House.  
139 He reported that all the boards were blackened from fireplace use. The original part of the  
140 house was a half house. Approximately ten years later the another half house was added. He  
141 was documenting the project and would give the commission a CD with his photos. Mr Page  
142 lived there. Carol then commented on the media and marketing section. Discussing a 1-2  
143 minute video on web sites, of telling a story. Hopefully we can do this when the new town  
144 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 7<sup>th</sup> at 11AM was  
202 agreed upon. If rain is predicted, Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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

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