

HERITAGE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2013

The Heritage Commission held its regular monthly meeting in the City Council Chambers, City Hall Annex, 37 Green Street, Concord, New Hampshire, on Thursday, November 7, 2013, at 4:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Seating of Alternates:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Present at the meeting were Chair Phil Donovan, and Members Marilyn Fraser, Carol Brooks, Richard Jaques, Robert Johnson and John Regan. Acting City Planner Stephen Henninger and Administrative Specialist Patricia Murray were also present.

2. Approval of Minutes of the August 11, 2013 meetings:

The Commission considered the minutes of the October 3, 2013 Heritage Commission meeting.

Mr. Richards moved to approve the October 3, 2013 Minutes. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. New Business

a. Sewall's Falls Bridge Update:

- Presentation by Ed Roberge, City Engineer

Mr. Roberge updated the Commission on the progress of the Sewall's Falls Bridge project. Mr. Roberge reported that the schedule includes a public meeting in March of next year. City Council approval of preliminary design is expected in April or May, and the completion of final design by November in order to begin the bidding process for construction beginning in 2015. The commission made several suggestions in regard to the project mitigation including saving and repurposing the granite blocks in the foundation of the existing bridge, including the possibility of placing the blocks along a portion of the Heritage Trail and incorporating into the blocks historical photos and exhibits. The committee also suggested that design elements that reflected the original bridge could be integrated into the new bridge, and pieces of the old bridge could be incorporated into interpretive historical trail. The committee commented that landscaping is an important aspect of the design. Mr. Roberge advised that he will update the Commission on a bi-monthly basis as the project develops.

b. Downtown Complete Streets Project Update

- Alterations for Accessibility – presentation by Ed Roberge

Mr. Roberge presented solutions to Main Street businesses that do not currently conform to ADA accessibility requirements. 17 storefronts would have their entrances brought to grade allowing for accessible entrances. The Commission was quite pleased with the plans but suggested that the railings proposed in front of the Phenix Hotel might be considered on the ramps proposed at other locations along the sidewalk. The Commission noted that the inclusion of landscaping in the sidewalk in front of the Phenix Hotel to be an important design element.

- c. Update on the 2013 CLG Grant – Carriage Houses and Urban Barns
 - Review of proposals

The sub-committee; Mr. Donovan, Mr. Richards and Mr. Jaques, reviewed the one proposal that was received from Christopher P. Williams Architect, LLC. Mr. Henninger advised that the NH division of Historical Resources (the grantor) had reviewed the proposal and found the proposal to be acceptable and found the proposed Architectural Historian to be qualified to undertake the project. The sub-committee recommends accepting the proposal. Mr. Henninger advised that the City's Purchasing Director will begin the contract negotiation immediately. The Division of Historical Resources will require a start-up meeting with the City and the consultant to discuss the scope of the project and the timing of the study deliverables.

- d. Update on Gas Holder building

No update. Ms. Murray will check for the letter from Mr. Donovan and advise if the letter has been sent.

4. Regular business

- a. Demolition Review – Committee Report

Nothing new to report.

- b. Heritage Sign Program

Nothing new to report.

- c. Grant Funding Work Group

Nothing new to report.

- d. Update on Demolition Permit funding

Chair Donovan filled Mr. Henninger in on this effort.

5. Informational Items

None this month.

6. Any other business to come before the Commission

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Brooks seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment at 6:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Henninger
Acting City Planner