HERITAGE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2014

The Heritage Commission held its regular monthly meeting in the City Council Chambers, City Hall Annex, 37 Green Street, Concord, New Hampshire, on Thursday, December 5, 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 Carol Brooks, Robert Johnson, Fred Richards, John Regan and Bryant Tolles. Senior Planner Becky Hebert and Administrative Specialist Patricia Murray were also present.

2. Approval of Minutes of the December 5, 2013 meetings:

The Commission considered the minutes of the December 5, 2013 Heritage Commission meeting.

Ms. Brooks moved to approve the December 5, 2013 Minutes. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. New Business

   a. Discussion of Proposed Multi-purpose building at White Park. (Mary Deal, resident and David Gill, Director of Parks and Recreation to attend)

Mr. Gill presented an overview and background of the proposed Multi-purpose building at White Park. He assured the Commission and guests that all procedures will be followed including approval from appropriate Committees and Boards. Dr. Mary Deal was present and stated her concerns regarding the project. She is concerned that the integrity of the original purpose of the park is being compromised by the location, size and intended use of the proposed multi-purpose building. Mr. Gill reiterated that the project is still in the development stage and all concerns and options will be thoroughly explored before the finalization. After some conversation, Dr. Deal stated that she is not opposed to the new building but she is opposed to the proposed site of the building. She also stated that she didn't receive notice of past meetings concerning the proposed building. Mr. Gill assured her that notices would be sent to all abutters before the required meetings and that he has been sending notices of preliminary meetings. Dr. Deal also expressed concerns over the parking lot addition several years ago and the loss of playing fields. Mr. Donovan appreciated her comments but stated that the decisions made for the parking lot cannot be revisited at this point and the focus presently should be on the proposed multi-purpose building. Dr. Deal expressed that the intended use of the proposed building is for her questionable. She does not want weddings or any such event that could be noisy or crowd producing for the neighborhood.

A discussion regarding Dr. Deal's concerns regarding the location of the building ensued. Many suggestions from Commission members were expressed including moving the location of the building away from the street and retaining the vistas. They acknowledged that the location is limited due to the many wet areas of the park.

Mr. Donovan asked Mr. Gill to keep the Commission informed of progress and to notify the Commission of any meetings. Mr. Gill agreed.

b. Consideration of mitigation plan for Sewall Falls Bridge reconstruction. (Ed Roberge, City Engineer to attend)

Mr. Roberge updated the Commission on the Sewalls Falls Bridge Replacement Project. He explained that the bridge would be marketed for re-use and the consulting parties are working on a memorandum of agreement outlining the mitigation plan. The mitigation would include a state level historic documentation record for the Sewalls Falls Bridge, a monograph of John Williams Storrs and the development of a recreational park area adjacent to the bridge. He said the park would be called Heritage Park and amenities would include interpretive materials, walking paths, picnic tables and benches. He said the park would also include a static monument constructed from repurposed parts of the bridge. Ms. Hebert has suggested using one section of the bridge to create a covered picnic pavilion. The granite blocks would also be placed within the park. Mr. Roberge explained that the consulting parties did not feel that the proposed mitigation was enough to offset the loss of the bridge as a historical resource. It was also suggested that money be set aside for the Heritage Commission to use for a transportation related project or historical inventory. The group discussed possible projects including expanding the study area and providing additional interpretive materials at the Sewalls Falls Recreational area and completing an inventory of WPA projects within Concord. The Commission asked Ms. Hebert to speak with Mr. Roberge about what would be considered an appropriate project for the bridge mitigation. Ms. Hebert will meet with Mr. Roberge and report back to the Committee.

c. Update on CLG – Carriage House Study.

No update

d. Report by Member Richards in regards to NH Division of Historical Resources study of demolition review.

No update

e. Consideration of filing for intervener's status in regard to the Northern Pass Project. (new item 2/3/14)

Ms. Hebert informed the Commission of a notice from the Department of Energy inviting the Commission to consult on the proposed northern pass transmission line project. After some

discussion the Commission agreed to participate in the Section 106 consultation process. Planning staff will file the appropriate paperwork.

4. Regular business

a. Demolition Review – Committee Report –

Mr. Richards updated the Commission on a demolition permit for NAMI, 85 North State Street. No action was taken.

b. Heritage Sign Program

No update.

c. Update on Demolition Permit funding

No update.

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. Richards moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Regan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment at 6:17 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Murray
Administrative Specialist