

HERITAGE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2015

The Heritage Commission held its regular monthly meeting in the City Council Chambers, City Hall Annex, 37 Green Street, Concord, New Hampshire, on Thursday, May 7, 2015, 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, Richard Jaques, Robert Johnson, Fred Richards, Bryant Tolles, and Richard Woodfin. City Planner Nancy Larson and Administrative Specialist Patricia Murray were also present.

2. Approval of Minutes of the April 2, 2015 meeting:

The Commission considered the minutes of the April 2, 2015 Heritage Commission Meeting.

Mr. Johnson moved to approve the April 2, 2015 minutes with the addition of the word “seconded” to paragraph 2. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. New Business

a. Discussion on changes to the Demolition Review Ordinance (Article 26-9)

Chair Donovan reported there is no significant movement. Mr. Richards stated he needs to email Nancy the list of municipalities with 90 day demo ordinances.

4. Regular business

a. Demolition Review – Committee Report

Mr. Richards reported there is a new demolition application for 102 Sewalls Falls Road. Mr. Johnson has not reached owner yet but he did check the property and reports there is nothing worth saving; the house is a larger ranch house in middle of ranch is the 1850s structure with replacement vinyl and windows. Mr. Johnson stated there may be history in frame in walls but he is not planning to contest; the older part is distinguished from the newer but not worth saving.

b. Heritage Sign Program

Ms. Brooks presented the 250 Heritage Sign Program at a Concord 250 chat. She presented the Commission with the poster she constructed which displays the information on the 250 Sign Program. She apprised of important dates; Sunday June 7th at the Audi, time capsule reveal – 5:30 ice cream social and 6:00 capsule opening; Saturday August 15th white park tent, food, etc. 1 – 5pm. Mr. Jaques stated he will attend the August 15th event. Mr. Richards will be at both events. Ms. Brooks handed out applications to members and reviewed the handout packet. A discussion regarding the structure of the program ensued. Ms. Brooks noted an invoice was received from Advantage Sign for the production of the prototype signs.

Chair Donovan encouraged members to make an effort to apply for a Heritage 250 Sign.

Ms. Brooks moved to approve the payment of the Advantage Sign invoice for \$150.00 from the Heritage Commission Professional Development and Expenses account. Mr. Jaques seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Update on Demolition Permit funding

Ms. Larson will know the outcome once the budget is approved by City Council.

d. Doyen Park Monument - continued from April 2, 2015

Chair Donovan stated that Byron Champlin, who brought this to attention of the Commission, is doing additional research on the matter.

Mr. Jaques moved to table the Heritage Commission's recommendation to move the Doyen monument from Court Street to Doyen Park until further information is brought forth. Dr. Tolles seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

e. Northern Pass - continued from April 2, 2015

Mr. Johnson stated he would like to invite Jack Savage from the Forest Society to speak to the Commission on the Northern Pass. A discussion ensued about the appropriateness of having Mr. Savage present to the Commission and regarding the Commission's involvement in taking a stance on this issue. Members expressed concerns over the proposed poles being erected and perhaps creating an unpleasant aesthetic view. Concerns about the Commission overstepping its bounds were discussed.

Mr. Jaques moved to table the decision to write a letter regarding the effect of the Northern Pass on the historical district of Concord until further information is gathered regarding any referral from City Council or other entities. After much discussion, Mr. Jaques rescinded his motion.

Mr. Jaques moved to approve no comments or involvement on the Northern Pass Project by the Heritage Commission. Mr. Woodfin seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:2.

5. Informational Items

a. Status of the Gasholder building roof repairs.

Chair Donovan will pursue the contact Ms. Larson supplied.

b. NH Preservation Alliance conference

Chair Donovan reported that the conference was held a few weeks ago. Chair Donovan, Ms. Brooks, Mr. Jaques, Mr. Richards, and Mr. Woodfin attended. Chair Donovan stated the event was well attended and included six tours to different venues downtown with 15 – 20 people in each group.

6. Any other business to come before the Commission

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

Chair Donovan adjourned the meeting at 5:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Larson
City Planner