

ASHLAND HERITAGE COMMISSION

SEPTEMBER 22, 2015

Members Present: Maher, Stevens, Ruell, Sharps, DeWolfe

The meeting began at 4 p.m. in the Fire Station.

All members have been sworn in, but we need to check the terms of the members.

Rules of Procedure The Rules of Procedure for the Commission was discussed. The Moultonboro Heritage Commission Rules of Procedure were used as a template. The consensus was to make the following changes from the Moultonboro model:

- replace “Moultonboro” with “Ashland” throughout
- in “III. Membership” remove “the terms of these individuals shall coincide with their terms of office”, referring to Selectmen and Planning Board members
- in III, change “five” alternate members to “three”
- in III, delete the entire paragraph on the qualifications of members
- in “V. Scheduling of Meetings”, change first sentence to “Meetings of the Commission shall be held on a *quarterly* basis and at other times at the call of the chair *or a majority of the members.*”
- in “VI. Powers and Duties” add “The Commission shall also have the powers and duties designated in Ashland Town Meeting Warrant Article 14, passed in March of 2015:
 - to propose and implement other preservation planning
 - to assist in coordinating and fundraising for cultural events for the Town.”

Further research is needed on the duties of the Historic Commission as stated in the 1970 warrant article establishing the Historic Commission, which powers are now to “be assumed by the Heritage Commission” according to the March 2015 warrant article. Further research is also needed on RSA 79-D (Barn Easement) and RSA 79-E (Village Revitalization Tax Incentive) referenced in “VII. Advisory Role to Town Boards and Commissions”. The Commission must also choose an effective date for the Rules. These issues and final action on the Rules will be taken up again at a future meeting.

Funds The Commission discussed funding the Commission and the related laws.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by DeWolfe, it was voted unanimously to ask the Board of Selectmen for the authority to accept gifts and donations, under RSA 674:44-b I(h).

Other Ashland Organizations and Events The Commission discussed its future relationship to other Ashland organizations, particularly the Fourth of July Committee, the 150th Anniversary Committee, the Ashland Area Recreation Association, and the Community Council, and to town events, such as the Fourth of July, the Town Wide Yard Sale and Christmas Night. Issues included insurance for volunteers, organizations and events, the handling of funds if events came under the auspices of the Commission, and what the Commission would expect of organizations. The need to discuss these issues with Primex, the town's insurer, was pointed out.

Tasks Sharps will ask the selectmen for authority to accept gifts and donations. Maher will talk to Primex about insurance for the Town Wide Yard Sale and Christmas Night, will find the texts of RSA 79 D and 79E, and will find out the terms of Commission members. Stevens will talk to the Town Treasurer about the Commission's accounts. DeWolfe will research the 1970 warrant article on the Historic Commission. Ruell will type the draft Rules of Procedure.

Election of Officers On a motion by Maher, seconded by DeWolfe, it was voted unanimously to elect the following officers: Maher as Chair, DeWolfe as Corresponding Secretary, Ruell as Recording Secretary, and Stevens as Treasurer.

Budget Request On a motion by Maher, seconded by DeWolfe, it was voted unanimously to request \$1000 for the 2016 budget of the Heritage Commission.

NHHC Programs Ruell explained that the Commission could apply for N.H. Humanities Council programs and suggested one on historical markers.

Next Meeting The consensus was to meet again on Tuesday, October 13, at 4 p.m. in the Fire Station.

On a motion by Stevens, seconded by DeWolfe, it was voted to adjourn at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Ruell, Recording Secretary