

ASHLAND HERITAGE COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 10, 2016

Members Present: Maher, Stevens, Ruell, Sharps

Others Present: Susan MacLeod

The meeting started at 4:11 p.m.

Commissioner Resignation Maher reported that Commissioner Kathleen DeWolfe resigned effective February 4. Susan MacLeod volunteered to serve in her place, and will send a letter to that effect to the selectmen, who will appoint a new commissioner. Maher asked if anyone knew of others interested in serving on the commission, noting that the commission may have more members. Ruell suggested advertising the vacancy. Maher said that she had informed the town webmaster of the change. She also noted the need to appoint a Corresponding Secretary, as DeWolfe had held that position.

Minutes On a motion by Maher, seconded by Stevens, it was voted 3 to 0 to approve the minutes of January 12. Stevens noted one error- the sentence at the top of page 3 that begins “Stevens offered to fly his plane...” should read “....a plane...”

Town Website The issue of what to place on the Town website was discussed. The consensus was to add nothing more at this time.

Correspondence An e-mail address has not yet been established for the Commission. Any regular mail will be delivered to the Town Office and would be the responsibility of the Corresponding Secretary.

Historic Commission Files Maher raised the issue of where the Historic Commission files are now. Ruell will contact Bob Hicks with that question.

Finances The Commission's \$1000 budget request has been included in the Patriotic Purposes section of the Town budget. Since the recommended budget is less than the default budget, it is expected to pass. The first money received by the Commission was the \$50 check from the Historical Society for the NH Humanities program. Stevens had given the check to Linda Guyotte, the Town Treasurer, the day before. She had suggested setting up a separate checking account for the Heritage Commission. Since the payment of the \$50 program application fee to NH Humanities would deplete the fund, Maher donated \$1 and MacLeod \$10 to the Heritage Fund to keep it open.

Stevens noted that he will be out of town for large parts of the year. Maher noted that there is concern about the term “Treasurer” for the position now held by Stevens, but felt that finances should all go through one member of the Commission, so that the funds can be tracked at all

times. Ruell suggested the title "Finance Secretary". Maher explained the Fourth of July revenues, notably the sale of ads starting in March, and the collection of cash for food, sales, donations, parking, raffles, etc., during the holiday, and noted the need to keep track of all the revenues, particularly the cash. She stressed the need for a protocol for handling and depositing funds that will be flowing through the Heritage Fund accounts. The major checks for the 2016 Fourth of July celebration have been written. But new money for next year's event will start arriving in March. Stevens suggested contacting the Town Treasurer for her suggestions. Maher proposed that the Commission should have its own Post Office box to handle mailed donations, ad sales, etc. Subsequently, it was voted 4 to 0, on a motion by Ruell, seconded by Stevens, to authorize Maher to rent a post office box for the Commission, with Maher to be reimbursed in the future.

Whipple House The Commission's report on the Whipple House has been submitted to the selectmen. The Building Inspector has inspected the building, as has the Fire Chief, although he may revisit it. Their reports have not been received yet by the Commission. Maher said that the Commission has done its duty on the building, and will wait to see if the Selectmen will ask the Commission to do anything more about the Whipple House.

Northern Pass Ruell had sent the Commissioners an e-mail asking them to consider making a statement on the impact of the proposed Northern Pass power line on historic structures in Ashland, particularly the two historic bridges over the Pemi. After a short discussion, it was voted 4 to 0, on a motion by Stevens, seconded by Sharps, to have Ruell draft such a letter of concern for the Northern Pass project.

Emergency Meetings Because of a misunderstanding about Ruell's e-mail, Maher had worked on calling an emergency meeting to consider applying for intervenor status for the Northern Pass project. The procedure for an emergency meeting was discussed. Maher asked that Commissioners, when raising an issue in such communications, specify whether they want an emergency meeting or want the issue to be placed on the agenda for a regular meeting.

Next meeting Maher will be away in March, but can participate by phone at the March meeting and will prepare the agenda for that meeting. Because of a conflict with the local elections on March 8, the March meeting was rescheduled to Wednesday, March 9. Maher asked the Commissioners to review Chapter 9 of the Master Plan.

On a motion by Sharps, seconded by Maher, it was voted to adjourn at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

David Ruell, Recording Secretary