

ASHLAND HERITAGE COMMISSION

APRIL 12, 2016

Members Present: Maher, MacLeod, Ruell, Stevens, Sharps
Others Present: Fire Chief Steve Heath

The meeting began at 4:04 p.m. in the Fire Station.

Minutes On a motion by MacLeod, seconded by Stevens, it was voted, with one abstention, to approve the minutes of March 9.

[The agenda noted the Commission's e-mail address has not yet been established.]

Whipple House Inspections The Fire Chief's inspection report has been distributed to the Selectmen, Historical Society Board members, and Commission members. Chief Heath said that he did not see any major issue in the building. The Selectmen would like to hold a joint meeting with the Commission and the Society Board to discuss the issues in the Fire Chief and Building Inspector's reports. The Fire Chief is willing to attend that meeting. Ruell has sent some questions on the report to the Fire Chief. He said that the Society Board had not yet had a chance to discuss the issue, but will be developing priorities for repairs at the Whipple House, with code problems at the top of the list.

Whipple House Chimneys Ruell explained that the Historical Society will be applying for a Moose Plate grant to replace two chimneys at the Whipple House with historically accurate chimneys using reproduction brick and the same mortar joints and general design as the original chimneys. A granite crown will be placed on the non-functional northeast chimney. The Society has asked for approval and a letter of support from the Selectmen and the Commission for the grant application. The letter of support was discussed. On a motion by Maher, seconded by Stevens, it was unanimously voted to

have MacLeod prepare a letter to NHDHR supporting the application, to be signed by Maher.

Finances The \$1000 appropriation for the Commission was approved as part of the 2016 town budget. Maher and Stevens have discussed financial issues with the Town Treasurer. The money collected for the Fourth of July last year is now in the AARA Patriotic Fund and will be used to pay the expenses of the 2016 celebration. Any money left over in that fund this year will be given to the Heritage Fund. Money raised in 2016 will go directly into the Heritage Fund for future celebrations. The goal is to raise \$21,000 this year for next year's holiday. The Treasurer will establish a separate account for Fourth of July funds. The handling of cash contributions to the Fourth of July was discussed. The Fourth of July committee will keep track of the money as it is raised. Maher said that in the future, the Fourth of July Committee will submit an annual budget for the Commission's approval and that all expenditures would be approved by at least two Commissioners. Maher has prepared a new draft of the financial flow proposal for the Treasurer to review. Maher and Stevens will work with the Treasurer on the financial flow issues. MacLeod has obtained documentation that the Selectmen gave the Commission the authority to accept donations.

Northern Pass Ruell sent a letter to the Site Evaluation Committee and the Department of Energy, with copies to NHDHR and NHPA, expressing the Commission's concern about the impact of Northern Pass project on the two historic steel bridges over the Pemigewasset River.

Barn Survey Stevens reported on the NH Preservation Alliance's NH Barn Survey workshop that he had attended, where representatives from three towns that had completed barn surveys spoke. He felt that it was a project that the Commission could undertake with success, and passed around a copy of the state barn survey form. The first step would be to identify the barns, the second to send letters to property owners explaining the project and asking permission to survey their barns. A small group of surveyors, probably three, would then visit the barn and record it with descriptions, known history and photographs. The survey forms would be cataloged and

could be the basis of public displays. The issues of which buildings to record were discussed, including barns converted to houses, village barns which were essentially stables, the age of the barns, and other agricultural buildings that were not barns. Stevens suggested that the field work be done in 2016 and 2017, so that the survey results could be displayed in 2018. Training for the surveyors would be needed, perhaps by meeting with someone who has done a barn survey already. Publicity will also be needed. The unanimous consensus was that the Commission should do a barn survey. Stevens volunteered to be the barn survey coordinator. He will start a list of barns, contact NHPA, and draft a letter to property owners.

Building Inventory Maher suggested that we should do assessments of historic town owned buildings, similar to what was done for the Whipple House, and mentioned the Town Hall, the old jail, the Booster Clubhouse and the Library, and recommending starting with the Town Hall. After talking first with the Town Administrator and the Police Chief, we could approach the Selectmen about doing such an assessment.

David Ruell, Recording Secretary